Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-119
Tuesday
21 June 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-119 *21 June 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 June Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Arms Cooperation Only Lacking 'Will' *[London AL-HAWADITH 17 Jun]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Foils Overthrow Attempt *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 4
PLO Official Charges UK 'Collusion' With Mosad *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
AL-SAFIR Carries 'Text' of Abu Sharif Article *[18 Jun]* 4
Al-Quds Radio on Bassam Abu Sharif 'Document' 6

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Minister on Policy After OPEC Meetings *[Baghdad Voice of the Masses]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Defense Official Visits Moscow, Holds Talks 8
Energy Minister Concludes Moscow Visit 8
Briefs 8
Accord With Saudi Arabia 8
Cooperation With Mozambique 8

Egypt

Government To Host Talks on Southern Africa 8
Coordinated by Butrus Ghali 8
South African Group Arrives 9
President Interviewed on Arab Relations, Peace *[TAP]* 9
U.S. Support of 'New Soviet Role' Discussed *[Amman AL-RA'Y 20 Jun]* 9
Soviet Envoy Sees 'New Chapter' in Relations 10
'Abd al-Majid Cited on U.S.-USSR Relations 10
Coptic Pope Returns From Moscow Church Gathering 10
'Urgent Military Aid' for Iraq Prepared *[AL-SHA'B 14 Jun]* 10
Defense Minister Reviews Military Issues 10
Ibrahim Shukri Cited on Differences With NDP *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 16 Jun]* 12

Libya

Mediterranean Friendship Meeting Begins 13
Commentary Criticizes Murphy's Mideast Trip 14

Morocco

Zairian President Arrives on 'Private Visit' 14
Briefs 14
PRC Health Delegation 14

Sudan

Finance Minister's Statement on Economy, Budget 14
Defense Minister Talks With SFRY, U.S. Officials 15
Al-Nasri Assesses Garang Peace Overture *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 19 Jun]* 15

Western Sahara

Communique Reports 9 Moroccans Killed in Attack *[Algiers]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Al-'Alawi Says Ties With Iran 'Firm' *[IRNA]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Richard Murphy Discusses Talks With King Fahd 17

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy 17
Arrives 20 Jun 17
Received by Heir Apparent 17
Leaves Abu Dhabi for Oman 18

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit to Sanaa by Richard Murphy 18
Received by President Salih 18
Received by Foreign Minister 18
Departs After 2-Day Visit 18

IRAQ

Paper Protests U.S. Reception of Talabani *[AL-THAWRAH 16 Jun]* 19
PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Pays Visit to Baghdad 20
Arrives 17 Jun 20
Meets With Saddam Husayn 20
Confers With 'Aziz 20
Concludes Visit, Departs 20
Bahraini Defense Minister Arrives for Talks 20
Conveys Message to President 20
Makes Statement, Leaves 20
'Aziz Returns From UN General Assembly Session 21
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 21
Communique No 3,222 21
Mojahedin Down Helicopter 21
Mehran Casualties Noted 21
Iranian F-5 Destroyed 21

ISRAEL

Shomron on Reported Syrian-PRC Missile Deal 22
Denies Agreement Exists 22
Possible Missile Deal Analyzed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 20 Jun]* 22
U.S.-USSR Plan 'Dramatic' Mideast Peace Move *[HADASHOT 21 Jun]* 22
Peres Denies Knowledge of Plan 23
Shamir Finds Murphy Remarks 'Hard To Believe' 23
Abu Sharif Document "Arafatist Test Balloon' 23
'Double Agent' Affair Possible 'High-Level Mishap' *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jun]* 24
Shamir: Yugoslav Move on Ties 'Discrimination' 24
Beilin Begins Talks at Polish Foreign Ministry 24
Sees Gradual 'Normalization' 25
Jordanian Envoy Cancels Knesset Members Reception 25
Adviser Leaves for Tabah Talks in Washington 25
Shamir Thanks Ceausescu for Jewish Policy 26
Shamir Urges Japan To Expand Economic Ties *[Tokyo KYODO]* 26
Leaders Congratulate Ozal on Escaping Attack 26
Shamir Sends Telegram 26

Peres Message 26
Rabin, Bar-Lev Brief Cabinet on Arson, Unrest *['AL HAMISHMAR 20 Jun]* 26
Mitzna' Sees No Return to Pre-Uprising Situation 27
20 Arabs Detained in Sheqef Moshav Murder 27
Curfews Lifted on 8 Villages 27
Arab Journalist Jailed for Inciting Violence *[MA'ARIV 16 Jun]* 27
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 27
1 Injured in Nabulus Casbah 27
2 Soldiers Injured in Gaza 27
2 Injured in Nabulus Incidents 28
6,000 Under Detention 28
Increase in Rights Violations 28
Arab Air Forces' Technological Advances Assessed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Jun]* 28

JORDAN

Investigations of Recent Explosions Continue *[WAKH]* 29
Israeli Report on Brussels Meeting Denied 29
Prince Hasan Condemns Attempt on Ozal's Life 29
Murphy Tour Not Event of 'Specific Importance' *[AL-RA'Y 17 Jun]* 29
U.S. Accused of Encouraging Kurdish Separatists *[AL-RA'Y 18 Jun]* 30

LEBANON

Further Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting 31
2 Killed in Shatila *[VOL]* 31
Cease-Fire Takes Effect 31
Follow-Up Committee Meets 31
Fighting Resumes in Camps 31
5 Killed, 25 Wounded *[RFL]* 31
SLA Foils Attempt To Capture Position *[Tel Aviv IDF Radio]* 31
Counters With Shelling *[Jerusalem]* 31
'Resistance' Shells 2 Israeli Settlements 32
Clashes in South Reported; Strike in Camps *[VOM]* 32
Al-Huss Leaves on Official Visit to Syria 32
Returns From Damascus 32
Amal Urges Coordinated Effort Against Israel 32
Hizballah Reacts to Reconciliation Conditions *[VOL]* 32
Birri Comments on Relations With Hizballah *[RFL]* 33
Birri Calls for Accord Before Elections *[VOM]* 33
Ja'ja' Escapes Assassination Attempt 7 Jun *[VOL]* 33
Paqraduni Rejects Army Deployment in E. Beirut *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 18 Jun]* 33
Fadlallah Hails Syrian Move into Suburb *[Damascus TISHRIN 2 Jun]* 34

SYRIA

Radio Calls U.S. Regional Peace Policy 'Trap' 35
Paper Criticizes Iraqi-U.S. 'Coordination' 35
Commentary Analyzes Egypt's Role in Arab World 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech to Nangarhar, Konarha Leaders 37
Najibullah Speaks to Kabul City Party Activists 38
Sharq, La'eq Hold Talks With Tribal Elders 38
Prime Minister Attends Senate Session 19 Jun 39
News Conference Held on Geneva Accords 18 Jun 39
Soviet POW 'Exchanged' for 7 Rebels 17 Jun *[Tokyo KYODO]* 39
Soviet POW Release Lengthy, 'Delicate' Process *[AFP]* 40
Rebel Alliance on 'Threshold of Factionalism' 40
Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported 41
Qandahar, Zabol, Farah Clashes 41

Rebels 'Crushed' in Laghman 41
2 Killed in Rebel Infighting 41
Rebels in Nangarhar Defeated 41
Missile Launcher Seized 42
Rebels in Takhar Defeated 42
Rebels 'Crushed' in Nangarhar 42
Rebels in Zabol Defeated 42
22 Soldiers Killed in Zabol *[Islamabad]* 42
20 Killed in Rebel Fighting 42
Rebels Down Soviet Cargo Plane *[IRNA]* 42
Sayyaf on Soviet Withdrawal, Mujahidin Strategy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jun]* 43
Ahmad Shah on Mujahidin Government Policy *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 16 Jun]* 43

India

Punjab State Declared 'Disturbed Area' 44
Special Powers Act Invoked 44
'Terrorists' Kill 6 in Haryana, 1 in Punjab 44
Gandhi Sees 'Some Progress' Made in LTTE Talks *[AFP]* 44
Gandhi Wants Party Strengthened After Polls 44
Delhi Spokesman Denies Charges Against IPKF 45
Air Marshal Mehra Appointed New Air Staff Chief 45

Iran

Imam Khomeyni Discusses 'Issues' With Montazeri 45
Hashemi-Rafsanjani's House Reportedly Attacked *[Radio Iran]* 45
Karrubi Tells UK 'To Shun Complicity' With U.S. 45
Karrubi, Jamarani Discuss Hajj Boycott 46
Reportage on Visit of DPRK Premier 52
Arrives in Tehran 20 Jun 52
Suggests Barter System 52
Holds Talks With Musavi 52
Velayati, Delegation Depart for Romania 53
Mir Salim Heads Delegation to Berlin 53
Housing Minister Returns From Poland 53
Commentary on U.S. Presidential Campaign 53
Commentary on Afghan Mujahidin Government 54
Commentary on Drug Smuggling, Anti-Drug Efforts 55
Further Reportage on Operations in Mehran Area 55
Journalists Visit Mehran 19 Jun *[WAKH]* 55
Air Force Bombs Mehran 56
1,400 Soldiers Captured *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 56
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue 56
Iraqi Plane Overflies Ilam 56
Iraqi Plane Violations Noted 56
Communique No 3,239 56

Pakistan

4 Killed, 15 Injured in Hyderabad Violence 57
Major Parties Agree on Party-Based Elections *[DAWN 13 Jun]* 57
Court Upholds Political Parties Act Appeal *[AFP]* 57
Sunni, Shi'a Differences Over Shari'a Cited *[AFP]* 58
DPRK Premier Makes Stopover at Karachi 20 Jun 59
Naval Chief Leaves on Visit to Saudi Arabia 59
Commentary on Charges Against Afghan Policy 59

21 June Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2106125588 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Syrian-PRC Missile Deal—Reports about a PRC-Syrian agreement for the supply of long-range missiles to Syria are "mere rumors," Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron stated in remarks carried by Jerusalem radio.

Shomron also stressed that the operational role of such missiles in the Syrian order of battle would be basically "defensive"—to deter Israel from pursuing a war that would bring about the collapse of the Syrian Army. Such weapons could cause "enormous" damage if equipped with chemical warheads, he added, but Israel "will provide answers" to missiles, including developing means to intercept them in flight.

Shomron's remarks followed a YEDI'OT AHARONOT report that Syria is seeking to purchase a Chinese missile which has twice the range of the Soviet Scud and is said to be more accurate.

However, the paper noted that Syria would need outside financial assistance to finance any such deal, and its sources disclosed that the Syrians are thus far "merely looking into the matter" without having made any purchase.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir commented on the issue by telling Jerusalem radio that Syria's acquisition of such weapons would be "very serious." In Beijing, a PRC Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman denied NEWSWEEK's report that the PRC is to sell missiles to Syria, AFP noted.

Murder of Israeli—A resident of the Sheqef moshav in the Eastern Lakhish district was murdered the night of 19 June "apparently by terrorists," IDF radio reported.

The 33-year-old Israeli was killed while working in his vineyard and investigations indicate that the killers came from one of the nearby Arab villages on the slopes of the Hebron Hills.

A curfew was subsequently imposed on the villages, the radio noted, and 20 Arabs were detained for questioning. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Shamir said there will be an "appropriate" reaction to the murder.

PLO Affairs

The "text" of a recent "article-document" by PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif on the PLO'S view of prospects for a Palestinian-Israeli settlement was published by the Beirut paper AL-SAFIR on 18 June. Abu Sharif, who is PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, stressed that the key to a settlement of the conflict lies in direct talks between the Palestinians and Israelis, albeit within the framework of an international conference.

Despite the differences between the two sides, they both want lasting peace and security, Abu Sharif wrote, and the PLO believes that neither Jews nor Palestinians deserve to be treated unjustly.

On Israeli fears that a Palestinian state would threaten Israel's security, Abu Sharif said the Palestinians accept having the occupied territories placed under international guardianship for a transitory period to lay the basis for a democratic Palestinian state, and he added that the Palestinians will insist on "international guarantees" for the security of all countries in the region, including Palestine and Israel.

Abu Sharif's article was sharply criticized by Damascus-based Palestinian factions in a broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio. Former PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum described Abu Sharif's willingness to hold direct talks with Labor Party or Likud leaders as a "crime against the Palestinian question," while a PFLP-GC spokesman viewed Abu Sharif's document as part of the "overall non-nationalist and capitulatory policy represented by 'Arafat and the deviationist Arab forces."

Other hostile comment came from Al-Sa'iqah, the Fatah "Provisional Command," and the Popular Struggle Front.

Lebanon

Two people were killed and three wounded in another outbreak of inter-Palestinian fighting in Shatila camp, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The clashes subsided after another cease-fire agreement, Beirut radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft bombed positions of Iraq's I Army Corps in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region 21 June, inflicting "heavy losses," Tehran radio reported. An Iraqi spokesman told INA that an Iranian F-5 was shot down over the I Army Corps sector that morning.

Iranian warplanes attacked enemy concentrations in the Mehran area the previous day, inflicting "considerable damage and losses," Tehran radio reported.

According to INA, an Iranian Government helicopter was shot down by troops of the opposition Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA), which controls the city of Mehran.

A correspondent who visited the area told Radio Monte Carlo that the city was "crowded" with jubilant INLA combatants and their vehicles. During the INLA operations, some 1,400 Iranian soldiers were taken prisoner, and 40 tanks and armored vehicles as well as "thousands" of rifles were captured, the correspondent noted.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni received Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri 21 June for talks on national issues, Tehran radio announced.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and his DPRK counterpart, Yi Kun-ho, held talks the previous day on ways to strengthen bilateral ties and expand cooperation, the radio reported.

Afghanistan

Eleven people were killed and 45 wounded when Afghan warplanes attacked a rebel-controlled garrison and several villages in Paktia Province with "napalm bombs" and other weapons 18 June, AFP reported, citing Islamabad's THE MUSLIM.

Western Sahara

Nine Moroccan soldiers were killed in various attacks the night of 19 June, according to a Saharan communique cited by Algiers radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Arms Cooperation Only Lacking 'Will'

PM2006154388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Jun 88 pp 28,29

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the Arab Military Industrialization Organization, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Do you think the Arab Industrialization Organization can constitute a genuine and practical alternative to imported arms?

Al-'Urabi: Under its basic charter the organization was established to serve the interests of Arab states and contribute to protecting both national and pan-Arab security. Certainly the military industry can constitute a source of pan-Arab income, especially if we take into consideration that over a period of less than 10 years the Arab states have spent between 18 and 20 billion dollars. In view of the challenges facing the Arab world military expenses have been heavy, and the existence of Arab arms would reduce these expenses considerably and rid the Arab states of the harsh terms accompanying arms deals. This is in the knowledge that profit is not the main objective of the Arab states which own the organization; the objective is to break the arms monopoly and secure arms, ammunition, and spare parts for the Arab armies. And to make these available out of an Arab arms industry would be, in my opinion, a great achievement of important dimensions and effect.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not think freezing the membership of the Arab states has limited most of the production to the Egyptian Army's needs, and that new investment is now needed to finance the organization's production to match the needs of the Arab states in general and the organization's members in particular?

Al-'Urabi: Developing the organization's production to match the needs of the Arab states is a practical possibility. It would not require huge investment or financing. This is because a major part of what is being produced is used by the armies of numerous Arab states. This means that the project does not need financing insofar as it simply needs an increase in the present production level.

AL-HAWADITH: And which of the organization's arms are used by Arab armies?

Al-'Urabi: Numerous types of arms such as missiles, and especially FIR [far infrared] weapons, aircraft, and ammunition.

AL-HAWADITH: This means that the organization has sold some of its products to Arabs states other than Egypt.

Al-'Urabi: Yes. Some Arab states have purchased arms from the Arab Industrialization Organization; and some are studying offers. The organization signed an offer with an Arab state to the value of $50 million.

AL-HAWADITH: Was it Kuwait?

Al-'Urabi: Forgive me for not answering that question.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the tests carried out in the UAE on the "Fahd" armored vehicle?

Al-'Urabi: They are still continuing. Various arms and equipment are also being tested

AL-HAWADITH: When will these tests end?

Al-'Urabi: This depends on the UAE. We cannot set a date for the end of the tests. The opportunity must be given to test all types of arms and equipment.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe Arab integration in the field of military industrialization can be established in view of the huge investment required?

Al-'Urabi: Believe me, with present resources and without huge investment we Arabs can offer our armies and countries a great deal in the field of arms production. I believe that if the Arabs were linked by an agreement on the distribution of arms production among the Arab states, we would achieve a lot. For instance, with Egypt's huge capabilities in this field together with advanced Iraqi efforts in war production, and those of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with good planning and a noble Arab spirit of cooperation, we could achieve what we want.

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, what are the future prospects for the Arab Industrialization Organization in view of the 5-year plan aimed at developing it?

Al-'Urabi: The organization does indeed have a 5-year plan aimed at securing the largest possible quantities of spare parts for weapon systems in the Arab states, in addition to trying to increase the organization's production by a factor of 2.5. This can easily be achieved in view of the efforts exerted by the joint committee between the War Production Ministry and the Egyptian Armed Forces in the field of development and research. We have the capability to manufacture new weapons. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In view of the resources available, will we one day hear about an aircraft being manufactured which is 100-percent Arab?

Al-'Urabi: Manufacturing an Arab warplane would not be a problem if the Arab states were united. In 1966 Egypt was able to manufacture the first Arab supersonic jet plane, the Cairo-30. And we are now capable of manufacturing a fighter aircraft, especially as we now

have a genuine base for the manufacture of planes, as well as experience in repair work and maintenance. The base is there. We also have the engineers and technicians. But we lack the will.

AL-HAWADITH: You were planning to visit France, but your visit was postponed in view of recent developments following your visit to Abu Dhabi. Can you tell us what areas of cooperation there are between the organization and France?

Al-'Urabi: Certainly cooperation between the organization and France is an example of the successful cooperation which we have always sought to develop. France cooperates with us in a comfortable and positive way; it provides us with the technology without any restrictions. The object of my visit to France, the date of which has not yet been set, is to strengthen and expand those areas of cooperation.

AL-HAWADITH: Will you be discussing the question of increasing the quantities of Egyptian products exported to France as spare parts?

Al-'Urabi: Yes. We export Egyptian-made parts for the Mirage-2000 to France and we are seeking to increase our exports. We also seek to discuss the possibility of our carrying out some maintenance work on the models of French planes used in some Arab states.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Foils Overthrow Attempt

NC2006182488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Citing Palestinian Sources, the AKHBAR AL-MASHRIQ news agency reports that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat uncovered an attempt to depose him on the eve of the Algiers summit. The attempt was carried out by a large number of Fatah cadres, who secretly worked for Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad.

These sources said 'Arafat acted swiftly to contain the attempt in order to strengthen his position at the Algiers summit, taking into consideration the need to maintain the outer form of the Fatah structure. The sources noted that some of the swift measures 'Arafat took were: removing all the cadres that took part in the attempt, including 'Abd al-Rahman Busaysu, who resides in Cyprus; reducing the authority of 'Isam al-Lawh in Sidon; and attempting to relieve Dr Muhammad, the official in charge of social and medical services in Lebanon, who nevertheless has continued his duties because of the support he receives from the Palestinian organizations.

PLO Official Charges UK 'Collusion' With Mosad

JN2006182888 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1624 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The PLO has announced that the UK Government is covering up for the crimes being perpetrated by the organs affiliated with the Zionist enemy intelligence service, the Mosad, against Palestinians living in Britain.

An official Palestinian source affirmed that the UK Government, by limiting itself to the deportation of a Zionist diplomat for his involvement in a terrorist operation carried out by the Zionist Mosad against the PLO, reveals an official British collusion with the Zionist authorities, represented by a failure to expose the series of the crimes perpetrated by the Mosad under diplomatic cover against the Palestinians.

In a statement made in Baghdad and carried by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, yesterday evening, the source added: The UK Government has concealed the dangerous information revealed by the latest interrogations in London as part of its contribution to the covering up for the crimes committed by the Zionists against the Palestinians on British territory as well as for the crimes which emanated from this territory.

The source also accused the UK Government of trying to harm the PLO in a bid to deceive public opinion and conceal Zionist crimes. The source asserted that the UK Government's decision to deport a Palestinian citizen, who is also a PLO official and who has nothing whatsoever to do with anything that undermines the security and sovereignty of Britain, is additional evidence of attempts to unjustly incriminate the PLO and cover up for the crime and the criminals.

AL-SAFIR Carries 'Text' of Abu Sharif Article

NC2006103088 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Jun 88 pp 1, 9

[Text] Washington—In an "article-document" distributed as part of the "Palestinian dossier" to foreign, particularly American, correspondents during the recent Arab summit in Algiers, Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to the PLO chairman, said "We agree to direct negotiations that would lead to a settlement not imposed by any foreign party." Extracts of the document were recently published by U.S. media.

In his article which bears the headline "PLO View: Prospects of a Palestinian-Israeli Settlement," published verbatim here by AL-SAFIR, Abu Sharif says: "The key to a Palestinian-Israeli settlement is through negotiations between the two parties." He adds: "We are ready to talk with the Labor Party under Peres and the Likud bloc under Shamir."

He also says: "We are ready to accept the placing of the occupied territories under international guardianship in order to dissipate Israeli fears. The PLO accepts Resolutions 242 and 338 within the framework of a resolution that recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights."

Following is the text of the "article-document," which carried Abu Sharif's signature and was reported to have received 'Arafat's approval:

Everything that has been said about the Middle East conflict has focused on the differences between the Palestinians and the Israelis and ignored the points on which the two parties are in almost total agreement.

These points are easy to grasp, despite the fact they have been veiled by a 70-year accumulation of suspicion and hostility. Yet they exist and in them lies the hope that the peace which has long eluded this region is finally within reach.

If we remove the layers of fear and mistrust which have been piled up by successive Israeli leaders on the substantive issues, we will find that the Palestinians and Israelis are in general agreement on means and ends.

—Israel's objectives are lasting peace and security. Lasting peace and security are also the objectives of the Palestinian people. No one can better understand the Jewish people's century-long suffering more than the Palestinians. We know what it means to be stateless and the object of the fear and prejudice of all nations. Because of the various Israeli governments and other governments which had the authority to determine the course of our people's lives, we know what it feels like when human beings are considered less human than others and are denied the basic rights which the nations of the entire world are supposed to enjoy as a matter of course.

—It is our belief that no people, neither the Jews nor the Palestinians, deserve to be treated unjustly or to be deprived of rights or mistreated. Injustice breeds despair. We believe that all peoples, including Jews and Palestinians, have the right to take charge of their own affairs. They have the right to expect their neighbors not only to refrain from interfering in their affairs, but also to cooperate with them economically and politically. Without such cooperation no country could feel safe, regardless of its military might, and no country could truly flourish, notwithstanding the support of far-off friends.

—The Palestinians desire just such a stable peace and security for themselves and for the Israelis. We believe no people can build a future on the ruins of another people. We are confident this is the desire and goal of all Israelis, save for a meager minority.

—The means chosen by Israel for the achievement of lasting peace and security is direct negotiations, without any attempt being made by any external party to impose or scuttle the settlement.

—The Palestinians agree to this. We do not see any possibility of resolving any dispute without direct negotiations between the parties involved. It is our belief that any settlement imposed by a foreign power would be unacceptable to both parties and therefore would not stand the test of time. The key to a Palestinian-Israeli settlement is in talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Palestinians would be deceiving themselves if they thought their problems with the Israelis could be resolved by negotiating with any party other than the Israelis.

—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be returning soon to the Middle East for more talks on his proposals for peace in the region. The Israelis will be deceiving themselves if they think their problems with the Palestinians can be resolved through negotiations with any party other than the Palestinians, even with Jordan. — The Palestinians wish to choose their Israeli interlocutors. There is no doubt at all that we can reach a satisfactory settlement with the "Peace Now Movement" within a month, even though such an agreement would not be an agreement with Israel. Since what we are working for is to reach an agreement with Israel, we are ready to talk to the Labor Party which is led by Shim'on Peres, to the Likud bloc which is led by Yitzhaq Shamir, or to any other party chosen by the Israelis to represent them.

—The Israelis and Shultz also prefer to deal with Palestinians chosen by themselves. However, it will be futile for them as well as for us to talk to persons not authorized to negotiate. If what they are seeking is to reach a settlement with the Palestinians, as we are supposing, then they must negotiate with this people's representatives. The Palestinian people have chosen their representatives through the means available to them. All Palestinians have been asked by diplomats or foreign correspondents about who represents them. Their answer has left no doubt that the PLO is their representative. If this matter is looked on as an expression of the free Palestinian will, then the Palestinians must consequently be given the opportunity to express their free will in a manner that will convince all those with doubts.

A plebiscite among the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under UN supervision will allow the Palestinian people to choose between the PLO and any other Palestinian group proposed by Israel, the United States, or the international community. The PLO is willing to abide by the result of such a plebiscite and to open the way for any alternative leadership that might be chosen by the Palestinian people. The PLO will do this because its raison d'etre is not Israel's ruin but the

salvation of the Palestinian people and their rights, including the right to determine their fate and to express their opinions in a democratic manner.

—Apart from the satanic view with which the United States and Israel look at the PLO's struggle, the fact is that this organization remains based on democratic principles and is working for the sake of democratic aims. If Israel and its supporters in the United States realize this fact, then the fears that prevent them from accepting the PLO as the only possible negotiator to reach a Palestinian-Israeli settlement will disappear.

These fears, as they appear from what has been written and said in Israel and the United States, focus on the PLO's failure to agree unconditionally to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as on the danger of the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that would be extremist, totalitarian, and a source of threat to its neighbors.

In any case, the PLO accepts Resolutions 242 and 338, but what prevents it from saying so unconditionally is not the contents of the two resolutions but what they have omitted. The resolutions have not referred to the Palestinian people's national rights, including the right to self-determination and free expression. This is the only reason we have repeatedly stressed that we accept Resolutions 242 and 338 within the framework of a UN resolution that recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights.

Regarding the danger of establishing a Palestinian state that would be a source of threat to its neighbors, the democratic nature of the PLO's legislative, executive, and mass institutions invalidate such a possibility. If this does not constitute a strong enough guarantee for the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state, then the Palestinians accept the notion of setting a transitory period during which the occupied Arab territories would be under an international guardianship that would direct it toward the democratic Palestinian state.

After that, the Palestinians will agree to and even insist on international guarantees for the security of all countries in the region, including Palestine and Israel. Our desire to get such guarantees is the motive for our demand for bilateral peace negotiations with Israel that would be carried out within the framework of an international conference under UN supervision.

—The Palestinians feel they have more justifications for fearing Israel because of its war machine and nuclear arsenal than Israel has regarding them. Still, they welcome any logical and reasonable measure that would enhance the security of their country and of the neighboring ones, including the deployment of an international buffer force on the Palestinian side of the Palestinian-Israeli borders.t

Time, which is sometimes the best healer of wounds, is most often the great spoiler. Undoubtedly many Israelis realize this and convey this feeling to the rest of their people. As for us, we are now ready for peace and are capable of achieving it. We hope the opportunity available now to reach it will not be lost.

—Should this opportunity be lost, then we have to choose between continuing to exercise our right to resist the occupation because our ultimate goal is to be free, live in dignity, and have a secure life not only for our sons but also for the sons of Israel. [sentence as published]

Al-Quds Radio on Bassam Abu Sharif 'Document'

JN2006173588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The documents written by Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, and distributed to journalists during the extraordinary Arab summit conference convened in Algiers from 7-9 June has raised wide condemnation in the Palestinian leaderships. PNC Speaker Brother Khalid al-Fahum told the following to Al-Quds Radio in reply to Bassam Abu Sharif's document:

This document contains something which no Palestinian Arab citizen has previously offered. It ignores the charter and all the PNC's resolutions. It proposes direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy, the Labor Party or the Likud. It also deals with the Palestine question without its national depth, as if the Palestinian Arab people have nothing to do with their Arab nation. Such a statement, called a document, is a crime against the Palestinian question and the person who wrote it or instigated it should stand trial.

A spokesman for the PFLP-GC has said: The document disclosed by the so-called Bassam Abu Sharif clearly expresses the policy of deviation and bargaining. It is also an attempt to achieve normalization in the Palestinian area to foil the Palestinian popular revolution. It is also a sign of the depth of political submission and a relinquishment of the Palestinian people's struggle. He added: Bassam Abu Sharif's attempt to spread the deviationist plan is not a personal or individual desire or creation, but an assertion of the overall non-nationalist and capitulatory policy represented by 'Arafat and the deviationist Arab forces.

He added: Bassam Abu Sharif's call came to deal a blow to the bases of Palestinian national unity stressed by all the PNC sessions to confront the Zionist enemy. He said: Any hand extended to the Zionist enemy and attempts to win the satisfaction of Shamir and Peres will never be accepted except by those who have lost their minds. It is simply a great crime against the brave men who record a lesson of heroism everyday in stepping up the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

The Al-Sa'iqah Forces also condemned the so-called document distributed by Bassam Abu Sharif, press adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. They described it as completely conflicting with the PLO Charter and the resolutions of the legitimate PNC sessions as well as with the goals of the Palestinian national struggle. It also denies our people's struggle and their brave revolution in Palestine. A responsible source in the Al-Sa'iqah Forces Command said: The PLO derives its legitimacy from its commitment to the resolutions of the PNC session and the national charter, but it does not derive it from the Zionist enemy.

The source accused the press adviser to 'Arafat of using the Palestinian revolution as a political card to serve suspected goals. After wondering about the dilemma of the coincidence of the distribution of the document by Bassam Abu Sharif with the escalation of our people's revolution in Palestine, the source urged the progressive Palestinian forces who participated in the so-called executive council in Algiers to express their views on the document, especially since its writer claims in the name of these forces that there is an opportunity to negotiate with the enemy.

The spokesman for the Fatah Provisional Command said: We have no doubt 'Arafat is completely ready to go further than what his press adviser stated about direct negotiations with the Zionist entity. He said: What is strange is that 'Arafat distributed this document during the Algiers summit. He added: As we condemn this treacherous document, we appeal to all the nationalist Palestinians, especially the parties to the Algiers summit, to shoulder their responsibilities toward 'Arafat's political and military plans.

A responsible source in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front also wondered about the role of Bassam Abu Sharif, who works as a press adviser to 'Arafat, and said: The document distributed to reporters during the Algiers summit conference — a document which openly recognizes the Zionist enemy — is viewed as a flagrant violation of the PLO national charter and the legitimate PNC sessions' resolutions. The source also wondered if Bassam Abu Sharif expresses a personal viewpoint or represents a policy within the PLO. He called an all the national forces to confront such positions, warning that the masses of our people will have no mercy on traitors and plotters.

In statements published in the newspaper AL-SAFIR today, PFLP Secretary General George Habash said no official in the organization has the right to express any view conflicting with the agreed on views within the framework of the PNC. He said: The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The partisans of the Islamic revolution in Palestine distributed a statement saying the contents of Bassam Abu Sharif's document do not differ in letter and spirit from the contents of the final statement issued by the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Algiers regarding the Palestine question. This document came to complete the statement and to accurately express what took place behind the scenes, during the summit's talks, and in the summit's speeches. The statement adds: The people of the uprising will try all these traitors on charges of high treason and the honest people of this nation will hang them sooner or later. This is the inevitable fate of those who try to commit treason against the Palestine question.

A press statement issued by the revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party says: The concessions expressed by Bassam Abu Sharif and which followed statements made by Ibrahim al-Sus, director of the PLO office in Paris, who called for direct negotiations with the enemy to support the right of the Zionist entity to existence, clearly disclose the indifference of the rightest leadership of the PLO to the unanimous Palestinian national resolutions and its departure from these resolutions.

He added: Bassam Abu Sharif's statement represents a serious stab in the back of the Palestinian people's uprising. He called on the Palestinian masses and their national forces to be alert toward these positions and concessions, resolutely condemn them, and adhere to our inalienable national rights, foremost of which is the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil.

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Minister on Policy After OPEC Meetings

JN1506194288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has asserted that Iraq's staying outside the framework of the OPEC agreement means it will continue to determine its production rate in accordance with its national interests. He added Iraq will take into account market conditions as well as the need to maintain price stability and work to return prices to their official rates.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Vienna today on the results of the ordinary annual OPEC conference, which concluded in Vienna late last night, the minister said: The ministers unanimously decided to elect Dr Subroto, former Indonesian mining and energy minister, OPEC's secretary general for the coming 3 years as of 1 July and to extend the tenure of Dr Fadil al-Jalabi, an Iraqi, as assistant secretary general until the end of June of next year.

Algeria

Defense Official Visits Moscow, Holds Talks

LD1706202488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] General 'Abdallah Belhouchet, deputy minister of national defense and chief of staff of the National People's Army is on a visit to Moscow. He held talks yesterday with Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, first deputy minister of defense and chief of staff. The talks passed in an atmosphere of friendship. During the talks there was an exchange of views on Algerian-Soviet cooperation.

Gen 'Abdallah Belhouchet also met with a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is also head of the international relations section, and reviewed with him issues of cooperation and relations between the two countries.

Energy Minister Concludes Moscow Visit

LD1806195188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] The minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries has ended his visit to Moscow. Belkacem Nabi had talks with Konstantin Katushev, the minister of foreign economic relations. The two ministers have agreed in principle on the creation of a joint company for producing fertilizers.

Briefs

Accord With Saudi Arabia

Algiers, 19 Jun (APS)—In the frame of the reinforcement of economic relations between Algeria and Saudi Arabia, an accord was signed which exempts of taxes activities of "Air-Algerie" and the "Saudi Airlines" in each of the two countries. This accord was signed by Mr Abdelaziz Khellef and Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Kheil. Like the other accords of the same kind which have been concluded with several other partners, this accord based on the principle of reciprocity and mutual interests of the two states will lighten the expenses of the two companies and facilitate thus the exploitation of air links between Algeria and Saudi Arabia. [Text] *[LD20060228 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 19 Jun 88]*

Cooperation With Mozambique

Algiers, 19 Jun (APS)—Minutes sanctioning the Algero-Mozambican talks was signed Saturday by Boubaker Belcaid minister of higher teaching and Mrs Graca Machel, minister of education in Mozambique. The document deals with cooperation and means to develop it, notably in the scientific, technological and agro-alimentary fields. In the field of scolarships, Algeria offers Mozambique, a certain [words indistinct] scholarships for university and post-graduation studies. [Text] *[LD20060239 Algiers APS in English 1133 GMT 19 Jun 88]*

Egypt

Government To Host Talks on Southern Africa

NC2006103488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Egypt has expressed hope that four-way negotiations among Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States will lead to the establishment of peace in Angola and the independence of Namibia, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 435.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced in a statement today that Egypt has agreed to host a new round of negotiations among the four countries out of a desire to contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in Africa and the furtherance of previous four-way talks among the concerned parties over the Angolan conflict and the Namibian issue. Egypt's agreement followed approval by the OAU chairman and consultations with sisterly African states, the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry statement strsses Egypt's strong desire to create the most appropriate climate for a constructive and positive dialogue, in order to establish peace in Angola and attain Namibian independence.

The statement noted that the four concerned parties—Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States—have welcomed Cairo as a venue for their 24-26 June meeting.

Coordinated by Butrus Ghali

NC2006161188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Egypt has agreed to reopen the office of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania [PACA], which had been closed for financial reasons. This was disclosed by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, after his meeting with PACA Chairman Johnson Mlambo today. Dr Ghali said that President Husni Mubarak instructed him to contact and mediate between PACA and the ANC [African National Congress], which are struggling against apartheid in South Africa.

Dr Ghali also reviewed Egypt's past contacts, which led to the agreement to convene a 3-day quadripartite conference between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States on Friday to reach a peaceful settlement to the problems of Angola and Namibia. Dr Ghali disclosed that Egypt had direct contacts with all the parties concerned except South Africa, which it contacted through the U.S. Embassy, as Egypt has no diplomatic relations with the South African regime.

Dr Ghali said that President Mubarak had also asked him to contact Moussa Traore, president of Mali and the OAU's current chairman, as well as the leaders of the confrontation states in southern Africa, prior to obtaining approval for the Cairo conference from the parties concerned. Yesterday, Dr Ghali added, Egypt obtained Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda's approval. Dr Ghali further said that Egypt also had held contacts with

the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and won their approval to hold this conference in Cairo. Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt had cabled the leaders of 12 friendly African countries advising them of this meeting, including Senegal, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Kenya, Zaire, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mozambique. A cable was also sent to OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou requesting him to inform all the OAU members of the results of this meeting.

Dr Ghali asserted that Egypt agreed to host this conference at the request of Angola and after obtaining the support of the world and African community. He affirmed that this effort is in harmony with Egypt's policy of solving problems through negotiations and peaceful means.

Dr Ghali said that during their meeting today, he and the African ambassadors had viewed the importance which Egypt attaches to the Nonaligned Movement's conference, which is scheduled to be held in Cyprus in September. He disclosed that he will visit Zimbabwe early in July to attend a preparatory meeting regarding this conference. He said that during his visit he will meet with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Shamuyarira to discuss the conference agenda.

South African Group Arrives

NC2006193788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—An 11-member South African delegation arrived in Cairo this evening to discuss preparations for the Namibia conference, which is scheduled to open in Cairo on Friday.

The delegation was received by Qadri Fathi, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, and a U.S. Embassy counselor.

President Interviewed on Arab Relations, Peace

LD1706144888 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis 17 Jun (TAP)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has granted an exclusive interview to AL-HURIYAH, the mouthpiece of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally of Tunisia, which it published today. The interview covered a number of issues concerning Egypt's relations with the Arab countries, an international peace conference, and the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia.

President Mubarak began the interview by talking about Tunisian-Egyptian relations. He said that Tunisian-Egyptian relations are long-standing, and in his opinion they do not need any explanation or reassertion, as they have never been interrupted.

In reply to a question about some rumors that Egypt is linking its return to the Arab League to the return of its headquarters to Cairo, President Mubarak said that Tunisia is a fraternal Arab country, whose hosting of the Arab League we welcome. We are keen not to make this issue a cause for dispute, because in our opinion it is a formality which does not deserve great attention. Egypt will not insist on the return of the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo, as Cairo hosts many organizations. As for Egypt's relations with the Arab countries, it is noteworthy that our relations with them were never severed, even when there was no official diplomatic representation.

The Egyptian president said that his country has no hostile feelings against any Arab. There is nothing to disturb our relations with the Libyan people of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi himself. He expressed his conviction that the call for Arab unity [words indistinct]; Egypt has gone through this experimental unity, and is convinced that it is not suitable under the current circumstances.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was asked about the impact in the United States of the statement he issued after the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia. He said: "I would like to point out that we talked to the United States itself about this matter, because we consider it of great importance. Israel has no right to impose its guardianship on any Arab country. This is something that we can never accept. Israel is not necessarily the target of every Arab country buying military equipment. This clear stance of ours was met by understanding, even in Israeli quarters."

In reply to a question about the international peace plan and the place for Palestinians in it, President Mubarak pointed out that the world is moving in all directions, to the East and to the West, and that the two superpowers are in agreement about this conference and Palestinian representation at it. He expressed his fears that we might not agree on the form of Palestinian representation at such a conference, which is primarily a Palestinian issue and secondly an Arab one. The Palestinian factions must agree among themselves on the form of their representation.

In reply to a question about George Shultz' efforts toward an international peace conference after the recent Moscow summit, President Mubarak said: It seems that the Soviet Union has shown understanding and that the views of the two superpowers have come closer during the Moscow summit. The Soviet Union thinks the matter of Palestinian representation should be left to the Arabs and is ready to accept what the Arabs agree on this subject, which is very important. Our opinion is that the plan presented by Shultz includes a number of positive points [words indistinct]. The danger will be rejection for the sake of rejection or for any other considerations, as this will lead to postponement of the issue again, which is not in the interests of the Palestinian cause.

U.S. Support of 'New Soviet Role' Discussed

JN2006080188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Paris—AL-RA'Y—Soviet diplomatic information in Paris has revealed that the visit by Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet leadership's envoy, to Cairo is

aimed at more than merely informing the Egyptian leadership of the results of the Moscow summit. It falls directly within the new Soviet role in the region through an understanding with the Americans.

The information said that Polyakov, primary entrepreneur of this role, is preparing for the tour expected this summer by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze of a number of Arab capitals, said to be Amman, Cairo, and Damascus. The tour is also said to be an expression of the new positive atmosphere in U.S.-Soviet relations in the region.

This positivity lies in the Soviet concentration on the "reasonable" aspects of Shultz' initiative, linking that with Moscow's steps of rapprochement toward Tel Aviv, and an announcement of readiness for full diplomatic normalization immediately after agreement on an international conference, not after the withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, a condition previously made by the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources in Paris affirm that Washington supports the current Soviet move through Egypt and Israel.

This is, in itself, a new situation, the aspects of which will be clarified within the next few weeks and before the U.S. elections. However, initial signs indicate that the initiative is still in Washington's hands, and that Moscow is a partner to this initiative.

Soviet Envoy Sees 'New Chapter' in Relations
NC2006103688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jun (MENA)—The Soviet ambassador to Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, has asserted that a new chapter in relations between the two countries has begun. He noted that the Egyptian and Soviet leaders are exchanging messages on international issues and that their Foreign Ministries are exchanging views.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' published today, Zhuravlev said that the issue of civil debts between the two countries has been resolved. He added that the military debts issue will be resolved according to the March 1987 agreement.

The Soviet ambassador said that bilateral trade amounted to $900 million in 1987 and is expected to reach $1.5 billion in 1990.

'Abd al-Majid Cited on U.S.-USSR Relations
NC2006201088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that both the United States and the Soviet Union share the desire to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

In a meeting today with members of the Egyptian-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 'Abd al-Majid said that his recent visit to Moscow and his 3-hour talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze have led him to believe relations between the two superpowers are better, and that there is a new development in their relations aimed at activating the peace process. 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the Soviet Union backs the U.S. peace plan in the Middle East.

Coptic Pope Returns From Moscow Church Gathering
NC2106055488 Cairo MENA in English 2200 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 20-(MENA)—Pope Shanudah, head of the Coptic Church, returned here from Moscow following a 20-day visit to USSR marking the Christian millennium in Russia.

Upon his arrival, Pope Shanudah said Soviet President Andrey Gromyko met all participating delegations in the celebrations marking the occasion.

He said 500 delegations took part in the celebrations, representing all the world churches, the world churches council international bodies, UNESCO and other religions.

'Urgent Military Aid' for Iraq Prepared
PM2106090988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jun 88 p 1

[Muhammad Nawwar report: "More Egyptian Arms for Iraq"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned from reliable sources that Egypt is placing all its military-industrial capabilities at the disposal of the Iraqi Armed Forces and that preparations are underway for an airlift of urgent military aid to Iraq. This comes in the wake of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Baghdad.

It is known that Egypt has supplied Iraq with successive consignments of armor, jeeps, Hawk-30 missiles, modern Tucano aircraft, and a number of specialized military experts.

Defense Minister Reviews Military Issues
NC1806064188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2048 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has

urged that Egypt and Saudi Arabia join efforts in modernizing their armed forces. He called for coordination, consultation, and joint action to enhance the defense capabilities of the two countries in the shortest possible time and at the least possible economic cost.

In an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-HARAS AL-WATANI to be published Saturday, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah declared that Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia together constitute the two poles of Arab action toward boosting integrated Arab and Islamic power. He noted that all strategic studies assert that Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia play a decisive role in the security and stability of the Arab region and the Middle East, and in the extensive spheres of Islamic action. He added that the Kingdom holds the safety valve of the Western countries, which depend on Saudi oil. We in Egypt, he said, hold the waterways used to transport this safety.

In the interview, which will also be published on Saturday by AL-AHRAM and AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia encourage moderation and balance in regional and international relations. He added that the two countries are two poles in one boat, and that they are held together by a joint destiny. He said that Arab and Islamic wisdom enjoins us to act with daring and confidence to expand the scope of our cooperation and coordination in all fields, and to act on all levels.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah asserted in this interview that an Arab council must be promptly established to deal with crises, noting that such a council would undertake to coordinate the political, economic, psychological, and military tools to confront the Iranian threat. He noted that Egypt gets a $1,300 million military grant annually from the United States to modernize its Armed Forces.

Responding to a question on the prospects of holding an international peace conference and the military commitments that the concerned parties must undertake to preserve peace, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: When peace is established it must be supported by power, because a negotiator without defensive power to support him is not capable of voicing a strong view, and a deterrent force will make others think twice before violating the peace.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah remarked that the Egyptian Armed Forces are now replacing their dependence on huge quantities of personnel and equipment with higher quality and a better combat capability than was the case in 1973. He said: In addition to the continuing enhancement of the combat capability of the Armed Forces, these forces have now entered the field of handling crises scientifically, in view of the fact that a crisis is a stage between war and peace and a feature of current international relations.

He asserted that the Egyptian Armed Forces are national defense forces whose task is not merely restricted to combat performance. The Armed Forces, he said, take into scientific consideration such factors as politics, economy, and sociology when making plans for any military action. He added that the forces neither exaggerate nor play down their importance whenever they evaluate themselves or others.

Answering a question on the possibility of containing Iran's hostility against the Gulf countries, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that Iran is not merely seeking to expand the war to include other Gulf states. Iran, he said, is also seeking to extend the atmosphere of instability and crisis which the entire Arab region is experiencing. Consequently, he remarked, the Iranian role is not merely directed against the Gulf countries, but against the entire region, with the aim of forcing political, economic, social, and diplomatic changes so that it can impose the Iranian way on the countries of the Arab region. He said: A military confrontation with Iran to contain its efforts against the Gulf states is a matter that can be carried out through continued support for Iraq and integrated action by the GCC.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah pointed out that of the 17 Arab countries in the region, 5 are experiencing civil wars and 11 have border conflicts. This is in addition to the ferocious war between Iraq and Iran and the daily terrorism practiced against the people of the region. He said this means that 30 percent of our region is experiencing civil war and 70 percent have border conflicts. He noted: If there had been a comprehensive Arab strategy we would not be experiencing this painful reality.

He added: The Arab nation possesses sufficient human, scientific, material, and technological capabilities to make it a world power with weight and influence. A recent study by specialized international institutes shows that the Western bloc received 941 points, the Eastern bloc 519 points, the China region 341 points, and the entire Arab region 547 points. [figures not further specified] He pointed out that this shows that the Arab region surpasses the Southeast Asia region, Africa, and Latin America in terms of the components of comprehensive power.

On the Iraq-Iran war and its future prospects, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that this war has been notable for its technological surprises. These surprises have come on the tactical level, such as the use of human waves; with weapons and methods that cause chaos in defensive positions; and with the use of sophisticated marine mines and surface-to-surface missile strikes. The field marshal asserted that this war still carries the possibility of revealing further technological surprises.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that the Gulf war has entered a decisive stage with Iraq's military victories. He noted, however, that the resolution of the war requires

that the driving force that has been gained must continue, so that such decisive positions will not become isolated military victories. Otherwise, he warned, the situation will revert to a war of attrition.

Commenting on Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement and whether it will affect Egyptian defense industries, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We are adopting a policy of diversifying our sources of armament. The export of arms is not a matter of one party's desire or another party's expectations; it is a two-way street. He added: It is not only what we expect. It also depends on the other side's intentions.

On the significance of his recent visit to the United States, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said it was a totally successful working visit. Its purpose, he said, was to convince the United States on the joint project of manufacturing the M-1 tank in Egypt for the first time, allowing Egypt to export arms to the United States, and opening the U.S. market to military products.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah asserted that the Egyptian military industries are based on integration between the factories and companies producing artillery of various calibers, the "Al-Saqr" and "'Ayn al-Saqr" missiles, the Alpha jets and Tucano training planes, the Gazelle helicopter, the "Fahd" and "Walid" armored vehicles, and all types of ammunition, radars, electronic jamming systems, wireless and night vision systems, lasers, chemicals, and explosives.

He said Egypt can meet the arms requirements of friendly countries in all fields. Research and development, he said, are moving hand in hand with production, so we can keep abreast of international technological progress.

He added that the production of the M-1 tank will contribute to the transfer of modern technology to Egypt and to the acquisition of technical expertise in all specializations, while utilizing the full capabilities of Egyptian military plants.

He said that the Armed Forces are currently conducting an integrated scientific study into the causes of the 1967 defeat and the 1973 victory. He noted that the existing documents are written in a purely military style. We are rewriting them, he said, for the benefit of the nonspecialized Arab reader.

Ibrahim Shukri Cited on Differences With NDP

JN1806162688 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Jun 88 p 23

[Interview with Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Socialist Party and opposition leader, by Sami al-Samkuri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Samkuri] The opposition is charged with fabricating crises because of the extension of the emergency law. It is argued that the opposition is not aware of the political game, that it is unaware of many secrets that prompted the government to extend the emergency law.

[Shukri] This argument is self-contradictory. The argument that secrets are kept from the opposition is rejected. How can we be party to the system and at the same time kept in the dark in terms of reasons behind important measures?

In fact the government is not frank with the opposition unless it is in a critical situation. This occurred when it faced the revolution—not the mutiny as they call it—in the central security force. No doubt what happened was an outrage. We and the NDP leaders called for a meeting with the president. We discussed the matter. So far we have not been called to any other meeting. Now all issues are threshed out without us being told about them. We are completely surprised when measures are implemented.

The emergency law does a great harm to all the people and may harm the democracy itself. Therefore, this cannot be called a tempest in a teacup. The emergency law harms all citizens and not just the opposition and its activities. The talk concerning the rules of the game within the democratic tradition bolsters our case and not the government's. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] The opposition is accused of holding the people's intellect in contempt and neglecting national interests. You have called for civil disobedience and mutiny. Do you think that such calls serve Egyptian society or do they further exacerbate the crisis?

[Shukri] Concerning the call for civil disobedience, this issue is an extension of the government's behavior. Therefore, a drastic move had to be taken as an expression. This could have been a withdrawal from the People's Assembly. It might extend to civil disobedience. This call was discussed by Mustafa Shardi in AL-WAFD newspaper. However, I do not think that such a method would be productive in the present circumstances, although it is followed in many countries where there are differences between the ruling party and the opposition parties and where the opposition has exhausted all means of expression and attempts to effect reforms through positive methods. It would appear that such a move is a negative one, but its result would be positive and would embarrass the government, if it is successful. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] The opposition is also charged with failure to demonstrate an eagerness to protect the national security of the homeland and also with failure to take into account the dangers which might push the country to the verge of war with Israel. This was represented by the staging of activities by a group which sought to voice its support for the uprising on the Egyptian-Israeli border. What are the justifications for that which prompted the opposition to resort to such dangerous things?

[Shukri] Exaggerating such issues in this manner is a form of bankruptcy and a form of a failing defense in support of the government which combats all peaceful manifestations of Egyptian support for the uprising. When we talk about Egypt, it must be remembered that it is the big fraternal country of all Arab states. What happens in Egypt affects all Arab states, and also as a matter of course, the occupeid Arab territories. Hence, arbitrary measures have been taken. These measures have reached the point of searching the houses of youths and those of young leaders of the parties looking for Palestinian flags to prevent the hoisting of Palestinian flags at the party offices, including those of the Labor Socialist Party, and arrest those who do it.

The authorities confronted colleague Ahmad Husayn because he did this, as they arrest all those who attempt to hoist Palestinian flags. Therefore, some of the youth considered voicing their support for the uprising through a peaceful demonstration which would have taken the form of carrying placards and heading for Al-'Arish. This march was stopped in Al-Qantarah and returned to Cairo by the security apparata. Then, it was said that we sought to declare war against Israel. It is funny and regrettable that the interior minister repeated such statements. It is also regrettable that the president repeated these statements in a public meeting, when in fact he was fully aware that this was not the intention of the march organizers. The president knew that the planned march could have served as a good, peaceful, and recognized form of expression and that similar activities were staged by some elements in Israel in support of Palestinian rights and demands. We categorically reject such accusations.

[Al-Samkuri] The opposition is accused of supporting "terrorism" and of unifying its ranks to justify the acts of terrorism perpetrated by supplying media coverage of these acts. Besides, it is also accused of assailing and attacking the security men who defend the homeland!

[Shukri] Each action has a reaction. We accuse the security organs of taking some measures that might produce undesirable responses blamed on the youth and on some groups. Such situations could have been tackled in a manner that is different from that pursued by the government and some government organs. These authorities which level accusing fingers at us, saying that we support terrorism, stand accused by us. We know that stability is important and necessary. However, we do not encourage any act of lawlessness. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] The opposition is charged with turning the Egyptian street into a battlefield for slander and public vituperation against the government and state officials, and consequently of undermining the awe-inspiring traits of the regime and the government.

[Shukri] Such talk should first of all be addressed to the interior minister. He is the first man who publicly used unsuitable language while talking to us at the People's Assembly. He used unsuitable terms to describe the assembly members. The prime minister was there and the People's Assembly speaker was on the podium. Neither of them tried to end this barrage of descriptions. From my point of view, I believe that vulgar terms have been used by officials. Dialogues in which vulgar terms were used were held at the Prime Ministry. Some ministers tendered their resignations because such vulgar terms were directed at them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] Why have you announced your participation in local elections on the basis of a list including all opposition parties? How successful is this experience? And can it score noticeable gains for the opposition?

[Shukri] The NDP's insistence on the pursuit of the worst election system; namely, the one based on the simple majority list, prompts the opposition parties to think of ways to confront the situation. I believe that full coordination is currently taking place to ensure that the opposition will enter the elections as one list and bloc against the NDP in all constituencies. This is desirable and required. It is the only means available to prove that the opposition has a popular backing and to fight the government's election system, which advocates the simple majority list. We do not seek to have all lists under the name of one party. What I want to stress is that there should not be two lists for the opposition in any constituency.

Libya

Mediterranean Friendship Meeting Begins

LD2006121488 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The fifth conference of the friendship societies of the Mediterranean Sea countries has started in Tripoli under the motto "For Stressing People's Relations." Delegates from Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Italy, Spain and the Organization of Progressive Socialist Organization [as received] together with Great Al-Jamahiriyah have participated in it.

The director of the Office of People's Organizations at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has given a speech welcoming the delegates saying the convening of this conference coincides with an important stage Great Al-Jamahiriyah is going through, namely, the release of the Great Green Document for Human Rights in the Era of the Masses.

This association, he adds, which was established in 1985 comprising the Association of Libyan Arab Friendship Societies with the friendship societies of the Mediterranean Sea comes out of a conviction of its solidarity with the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah in its stand against imperialism. It was embodied when Great Al-Jamahiriyah was subjected to the abortive and barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression in Al-Tayr (April) in 1986.

Conference will study a variety of these relating of the people's relations and ways for promoting them, apart from the role assumed by the friendship societies of interests to the Mediterranean Sea countries especially the presence of U.S. military fleets. [sentence as received]

Commentary Criticizes Murphy's Mideast Trip

LD2006220388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The JANA international affairs editor comments on the latest suspicious tour of the Middle East by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, saying that he has gone to the Arab area in a desperate attempt to salvage the U.S. presence, which collapsed during the emergency Arab summit conference in Algiers. The summit rejected all the capitulationist schemes put forward by the U.S. Administration to liquidate the Palestinian issue and, above all, the so-called Shultz plan, which was ignored by the Arab nation at the Algiers summit—land of the 1.5 million martyrs. Algeria's policy shows its constant backing, under the leadership of militant President Chadli Bendjedid, of the central Arab issue—Palestine—and has bolstered joint Arab action to liberate Palestine.

The editor adds that the truth about the United States has been stripped naked; left without even a fig leaf. King Husayn of Jordan exposed it at the closed session, saying the U.S. role in the Middle East is confined to helping the Zionist state, and that the U.S. Administration did not put forward peace projects or initiatives and made no moves unless there was a threat to the Zionist state.

Thus, the fig leaf, which the United States has been using for a long time, has fallen. Murphy has come along in an unsuccessful attempt to repair what has been destroyed, but he hit a big rock in Sanaa, where President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih confronted him with the agreement that had been reached by the Arabs at the Algiers summit. He reminded him of the resolutions which had been adopted by the Arabs; namely, that the U.S. Administration should stop being aligned with the Zionist enemy and the United States should respect the Arab nation. He affirmed the position of the Arabs at Algiers and that they have resolved to liberate all of Palestine from Zionist occupation.

The JANA international affairs editor continues: Despite this, the U.S. Administration insists on following the path of self-importance and arrogance in its haughty dealing with others. Assistant Secretary of State Murphy said that he was carrying messages from George Bush, the American vice president, to the Arab presidents and kings in the countries covered by his tour. In political terms, this put George Bush on a par with the Arab presidents and kings. This is a serious insult, added to the successive U.S. insults to the Arab nation.

The editor adds: This suspicious tour with its conspiratorial intent to undermine the Arab agreement, spoil what was agreed upon at the Algiers summit, and abort the uprising of the Palestinian people for which the summit was convened, shows the filthy role which the United States has been playing in hostility to the Arab nation. Its reply this time has come from the foreign minister of Oman, who said that the Shultz project had not been discussed at the Arab summit.

This is another slap at this insolent man who has come to shore up the cracks in the U.S. projects, which have now begun to come apart in the Arab area.

The JANA international affairs editor concludes by saying that the Arabs should realize its cunning role has become exposed to the sons of the Arab nation and is no longer a secret from anyone. We do not want the United States to stick its nose into the Arab arena. The United States should stay within its limits. We, the Arabs, are capable of handling our own affairs.

Morocco

Zairian President Arrives on 'Private Visit'

LD1806134388 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, president of Zaire, arrived today in Morocco on a private visit to our country. The president of Zaire was received at Rabat airport by the prime minister, Dr Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

Briefs

PRC Health Delegation

Rabat [no date as received]—On Tuesday afternoon, Moroccan Public Health Minister Taieb Bencheikh received Chinese Vice Minister of Public Health Gu Yingqi, who arrived in Morocco on Monday for a visit of several days. The two parties reviewed aspects of Moroccan-Chinese cooperation in the field of health and, in particular, regarding acupuncture and medicinal plants. [Excerpt] *[LD16060054 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 15 Jun 88]*

Sudan

Finance Minister's Statement on Economy, Budget

JN1506193788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 15 Jun 88

[All figures as received]

[Text] Khartoum June 15 (SUNA)—Finance and Economic Planning Minister 'Umar Nur al-Da'im today said before the Constituent Assembly that some public sector corporations will be changed next year to private sector.

Nur al-Da'im who was delivering a statement in the Constituent Assembly on the budget of next fiscal year, said that the Blue Nile and White Nile agricultural corporations will be liquidated and changed to cooperation and private sector.

He pointed out that the private sector management is better than the public sector administration in some business such as hotels and shoes industry.

Mr Nur al-Da'im pointed out that the estimation of next year budget has reached 2581 million pounds of which 41 percent will be allocated for the productive sectors, 36 percent for infrastructure, and 23 for services.

He said that the state would expand areas of wheat cultivation to overcome the shortage of corn.

As for sugar production he stated that the state will rehabilitate the sugar factories and stop smuggling of the strategic commodity.

We were going to expand the industry of drugs and secure inputs of medicine production he said.

About the inflation Mr Nur al-Da'im said that we will control the state of the inflation through the increasement of production and reduction of debts from the Central Bank.

Mr Nur al-Da'im, who was addressing the Constituent Assembly, added that expenditure of hard currency will be rationalized particularly in the field of the international conferences and the Sudanese delegations to the other countries.

To reduce hard currency expenditure the finance minister also said that treatment of patients abroad at the expense of the state will also be stopped.

He said that the government will reduce pension age to be 55 years instead of 60 and will replace the Civil Service employees who received secondary education and who are assuming senior posts by new university educated ones.

In the education field the finance minister said there will be expansion in vocational and technical education.

Regarding the agricultural development Nur al-Da'im said that there will be special concern for the rehabilitation of the Al-Jazirah scheme which is specialized in cultivation of cotton, dura [corn], groundnut and wheat.

He pointed out that all agricultural projects will also be rehabilitated particularly sugar cane of Halfa in eastern Sudan and dura schemes in western Sudan.

The finance minister said the delegation of the International Monetary Fund "IMF" currently visiting Sudan has come for talks on the budget and the balance of payments.

The self revenue of the new budget for 1988/89 reached 5889 million Sudanese founds compared with 3727 for the current fiscal year finance minister said today.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im who was speaking before the Constituent Assembly (Parliament) said that the expenses estimations amounted and the total deficit in the budget was 3994 million pounds indicating that a big part of the deficit would be repaid from loans and grants.

He pointed out that estimations of direct taxes amounted to 1075 millions pounds compared with the last fiscal year in which they reached 550 millions pounds.

He indicated that estimation of the indirect taxes has increased from 1825.2 millions pounds in the last fiscal year to 3029 millions pounds this year.

Defense Minister Talks With SFRY, U.S. Officials

EA1606161888 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] This morning, General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, retired, defense minister, met in his office with the Yugoslav Ambassador in Khartoum. They discussed relations between Sudan and Yugoslavia. His excellency discussed with the ambassador the possibility of cooperation between the Sudanese and Yugoslav armed forces and ways of developing such cooperation. The defense minister gave the ambassador a special message for the Yugoslav defense minister.

The defense minister also met in his office this morning with Mr (Mike Rithcer), U.S. military attache. They discussed aspects of cooperation between Sudan and the United States in the military training area and ways of boosting the Armed Forces by providing them with the equipment they require. The defense minister thanked the U.S. military attache for his visit.

Al-Nasri Assesses Garang Peace Overture

JN2006161588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jun 88 p 9

[Interview with Mirghani al-Nasri, State Council member, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] How do you assess John Garang's recent statements about his availability for a peace conference without preconditions? Do you see them as a tangible advance or as a kind of maneuver to burnish his public image?

Al-Nasri: The statement by Garang, leader of the so-called Sudanese People's Liberation Army, was made in good faith and was not meant to be a political maneuver,

inasmuch as the rebel movement has lost its political content. Across the political spectrum in Sudan the trend is toward a political solution on democratic lines. The democratic atmosphere prevailing in the country is such that all can speak their mind, the rebel movement included.

Consequently the movement's political content becomes irrelevant. The movement is free to come forward for negotiations with all its political and military echelons. Preparations have been made for a national constitutional congress through which all the demands of the rebel movement can be aired. Besides, the movement is in disarray.

Furthermore, relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have so improved as to have led to a profound weakening of the rebellion in eastern Sudan, the Upper Nile, and Bahr al-Ghazal. Of late they have tried to concentrate their presence in Equatoria along the borders with Kenya and Uganda.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you saying that Garang's statements were inspired by his weakened position and the recent thaw in relations between Sudan and Ethiopia?

Al-Nasri: Very much so: A democratic approach to a solution has been on the table from the beginning of the uprising. I recall that when I was at the general headquarters of the Armed Forces I was charged with asking John Garang on 9 April 1985 to come to Khartoum and join the ranks of the uprising, considering that he was opposed to the dictatorial regime which we all agreed to resist. But he failed to take that great opportunity. Had he taken the chance, he would now be one of Sudan's preeminent leaders.

[Al-Sa'id] Garang has stipulated that a ceasefire be agreed before the peace conference. Is this a logical demand?

Al-Nasri: As a matter of fact, the Sudanese Government is all for a cease-fire. The interim government once declared a cease-fire unilaterally, and Sudan is now amenable to that, since the Armed Forces are now in total control of the cities and roads in southern Sudan. Hence in political and military terms we are prepared to accept a cease-fire. We are sufficiently prepared militarily to maintain order and stability during the negotiations and the national constitutional congress.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you really feel that the ground is prepared for an easy solution to the problem of the south?

Al-Nasri: Actually, all the circumstances point toward a peaceful solution because there is a conviction that war cannot lead to any positive result and that there can be no winner or loser. Democratic dialogue is the sound basis for democratic solutions to our national problems, including the problem of the south. All parties in Sudan, particularly southern politicians working in the capital, are now convinced of this, especially since a very large number of southerners have left the south for Kordofan, Darfur, and the national capital. Consequently, the absence of southerners in the south has created a problem for Garang. This became the reality to which he had to respond. Hence, I believe that there is solid ground for negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Going back to Ethiopia and Ethiopian relations. It has been reported that Ethiopia is still hoping that Sudan will stop aiding Eritrea and the Tigre.

Al-Nasri: The basic fact in this issue is that we will not barter the Eritrean revolution with the problem of the south. But we are working for a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem of Eritrea in the same way as we are seeking a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem of the south. Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has actually presented to President Mengistu his concept of a democratic and peaceful solution to the problem of the south and asked him to present his concept of a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem of Eritrea. Through democratic dialogue political problems can be solved in the following manner; that is, we help Ethiopia solve the problem of Eritrea and Ethiopia helps Sudan find a democratic political solution to the problem of the south. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Are you now sure of the possibility of neutralizing all the foreign forces that used to support Garang and supply him with weapons and training? Could it be said Ethiopia has now stopped backing him?

Al-Nasri: Many groups support Garang's movement militarily, politically, and morally. But it is obvious that due to the protraction of the war and its high cost, there has been a reduction in the material and moral support extended to the rebellion. Garang has basically depended on Libyan military and material aid, but following the April revolution this aid ceased and aid began to come from Ethiopia. However, as a result of improving relations, this aid is decreasing gradually although it has not completely ceased. Aid is also coming from some African states, the church, and Israel, but we do not expect it to be useful because the movement itself began an era of deterioration, fragmentation, and decline. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Communique Reports 9 Moroccans Killed in Attack

LD2106092488 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] On the night of 19 and the morning of 20 June, the Saharan Army attacked a Moroccan observation post north of (Rous Diret). A Saharan Information Ministry communique mentions other attacks carried out simultaneously and that nine Moroccan soldiers were killed.

Oman

Al-'Alawi Says Ties With Iran 'Firm'

LD1906175988 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 19, IRNA — Oman's Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah refuted any change in his country's stand on the Iraq-Iran war and stressed on the unchanging policy of the Sultanate of Oman.

Speaking to Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH, Al-'Alawi called upon all world countries to substitute reason instead of resorting to violence among them. He referred distinctly to Oman's relations with Iran since the time before the 1979 Islamic revolution as being based on good neighbourliness, strategic situation of the region, and mutual interests.

Al-'Alawi considered his country's ties with the Islamic Republic as "firm" and stressed the continuation of such good neighbourly relations which he said are based upon mutual respect and peaceful co-existence.

Concerning regional problems and the need to promote understanding among Persian Gulf states, Al-'Alawi believed that mutual cooperation among neighbours was necessary in order to remove misunderstandings and work toward peace and stability in the region.

He concluded by expressing satisfaction over his previous visit to Tehran and his talks with Iranian officials.

Saudi Arabia

Richard Murphy Discusses Talks With King Fahd

LD1906230088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Jun (SPA) — Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East and Southeast Asian affairs, has said that his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, included bilateral relations and were beneficial and constructive.

During a news briefing held by Murphy at the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah prior to his departure from the Kingdom yesterday, he tackled the effects and results of the Algiers Arab summit and the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories and its effect on the U.S. peace initiative, pointing out it is the only practical plan for starting negotiations.

During his meeting, Murphy said he studied the Iran-Iraq war and the Afghan problem. He said he was there to answer questions on Shultz's initiative.

He praised the emergency Arab summit in Algiers and pointed out he felt the summit did not close the door to the initiative. He said the initiative is a framework of action and not a comprehensive plan on how to put forward the conditions of the peace operation.

Murphy said the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz have the support of the Democratic and Republican parties. Murphy discussed the uprising and said it (?created) a new international awareness toward the Palestinian cause.

Answering a question on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Murphy said the United States welcomes the Soviet decision to withdraw its forces. He said we expect Afghanistan to become an independent non-aligned country, pointing out this is left to the Afghan people to decide their future without any influence from foreign powers.

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy

Arrives 20 Jun

JN2006135588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jun (WAKH) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Sanaa this afternoon on a brief 1-day visit to the UAE. He was received upon arrival by Ya'qub al-Kindi, director of the Foreign Affairs Department at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Murphy's visit to the UAE is part of a tour of regional states. So far, this tour has included Saudi Arabia and the YAR.

Received by Heir Apparent

JN2006192188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has urged the United States to positively shoulder its special responsibilities, which it must shoulder, toward the Middle East conflict. He also urged the United States to enjoy the spirit of justice and end the Palestinian people's suffering and enable them to exercise their inalienable and legitimate national rights.

These statements were made when His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, this evening. WAM has said Richard Murphy briefed His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid on the details of the recent Moscow summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the Middle East issue, the Gulf war, and the region's issues in general.

During the meeting, they also discussed a number of regional and international issues of interest to both countries. There was particular concentration on U.S. efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and end the Iraq-Iran war. In this context, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid pointed to the dangers posed by the continuation of the Gulf war and the importance of implementing Security Council No 598 to attain an honorable, comprehensive, and just solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. He stressed the UAE's interest, along with its sisterly Arab Gulf states, in maintaining the region's security and safety as well as in supporting efforts to end this bloodshed.

Discussing the Middle East problem, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid emphasized to Murphy the UAE's principled and consistent policy under His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, based on supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their just struggle to regain their land and establish an independent state on their homeland's soil. His highness stressed the need for the United States to positively shoulder its responsibilities toward the Middle East conlfict.

He said the United States still has an opportunity to reconsider its stand, enjoy the spirit of justice, and affirm international legitimacy to end the Palestinian people's suffering. He voiced the concern of the UAE president, government, and people over the continued terrorist practices and the repressive policy Israel is pursuing in an attempt to quell the brave uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Leaves Abu Dhabi for Oman

JN2106092288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0602 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Jun (WAKH) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Abu Dhabi for Muscat this morning following a 1-day visit to the UAE within his current tour of a number of area states.

During the visit, Murphy met with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, UAE heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces. They discussed a number of regional and international issues, especially U.S. efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and halt the Iraq-Iran war.

It is noteworthy that Murphy's tour included, before the UAE, both Saudi Arabia and the YAR. The tour will also include Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Iraq.

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit to Sanaa by Richard Murphy

Received by President Salih

JN1906130488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at noon today Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Murphy conveyed to the brother president leader a message from U.S. Vice President George Bush. He also briefed the brother president leader on the outcome of the U.S.-USSR summit and the results of his recent tour of the region.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of interest to the two friendly countries as well as developments in the region, led by the Palestine question, and the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the Middle East. They also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the need to end it. The brother president leader stressed the importance of adopting more positive U.S. stands toward the cause of peace in the region in a way securing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil under the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate representative.

The meeting was attended by Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the presidency office and Standing Committee member. The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by Edward Douglas, military assistant to the U.S. vice president [title as heard]; and Theodore Kattouf, U.S. charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN1906172788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations as well as a number of issues of interest to the region, led by the Middle East issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN2006173288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, left Sanaa this morning, ending a 2-day visit to our country.

Paper Protests U.S. Reception of Talabani

JN2006100088 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Jun 88 p 2

["A Stand" column by Malik Mansur: "For Whose Sake Does the U.S. State Department Receive the Agent Jalal Talabani?"]

[Text] Through practical experience, Iraq's firm and balanced adherence to the principles of international law have become known to everyone. These laws form the basis for establishing normal and balanced relations, which rest on noninterference in the internal affairs of others, respect for sovereignty, and exchange of common interests and concerns with all states. This is a correct and sound method which Iraq has followed clearly and precisely, and through which it has achieved the highest level of credibility.

Iraq has always followed this method, which is in line with the spirit of the age, and tried to distance itself from any position that may offend the parties and states with which it establishes different types and levels of relationships. To the same degree, it has neither tolerated nor turned a blind eye to any breach of these principles. It has always resorted to diplomatic means and channels to warn about and highlight such cases. This is an elementary and necessary measure dictated by the concern to safeguard the legitimate interests that are exchanged with any given country, and to safeguard Iraq's legitimate national and pan-Arab rights and interests against any encroachment or abuse.

When Iraq is certain that there are deliberate actions and violations which are meant to harm its legitimate interests, and which constitute a true breach, it acts in light of these facts and begins to exercise its just right to retaliate to put things in their proper place.

We assert this fact following the reception by the U.S. State Department of agent Jalal Talabani, who agreed to be a lackey for the international Zionist forces and for Iran's rulers, and to play a subversive role and commit treason against the homeland. We believe that this act cannot be considered a sign of goodwill or concern for the continuation of normal relations. In context, this act also constitutes a dangerous precedent, for it violates the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of others. Iraq, decisively and without hesitation, rejects such acts.

Moreover, Iraq has the right to condemn this stand, which is a clear violation of its national interests. In addition, and as is known, it has the ability to retaliate in kind, in the ways and means it deems appropriate.

It is worth noting that the U.S. State Department's reception of the agent Jalal Talabani came after Iraq's major military, political, and moral victory in the liberation of Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and the expulsion of the Iranian invaders. It also followed the escalation and improvement of Iraq's capabilities and its growing superiority in the face of Iran's internal disintegration and deepening conflicts, and the emergence of clear signs of a general collapse.

We believe that Zionism, which is influential within the U.S. Administration, stands behind such an offensive and shortsighted position. This stand is devoid of wisdom, and reflects a lack of concern for the maintenance of normal relations between Iraq and the United States. Provoked and frightened by Iraq's victories, Zionism found an opportunity to hurt Iraq and cover up its broad and multifaceted cooperation with the Iranian rulers. It did so to save them from their sorry fate and to encourage the Iranian regime to continue rejecting the will for peace represented by UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Is it in America's interests to mar relations with Iraq when it knows better than anyone else that Iraq's position is strong, and that it has an effective presence in the region?

We do not want to resurrect the past. However, major facts impose themselves. What prompted the U.S. State Department to commit such an aberrant act when it knows, like anyone else who is informed about conditions in Iraq, that the situation of Iraqi Kurds is better and more advanced than that of Kurds in either Iran or Turkey? The autonomy that has been implemented in Iraqi Kurdistan since March 1974 and the development of independent and powerful institutions, even during the war, have frightenend the Khomeyni regime. At this very moment, that regime is carrying out the ugliest forms of tyranny, repression, arbitrary actions, and mass murder against Iranian Kurds.

The U.S. Administration's two-faced policy and maneuvering to ensure that it will be able to absorb the flow of events in Iran and use them to tie Iran to the West, is known to us and we are not discussing it here. However, it should be known that when such a policy is followed at Iraq's expense and attempts are made to hurt its vital interests, such actions will meet with the appropriate reaction at a level that ensures that harm to Iraq and the nation is averted.

Iraq's principled and firm commitment to the norms and provisions that govern normal relations among states, its respect for its relations with others, and its eagerness to maintain these relations out of its sense of responsibility, should not prompt some quarters, regardless of their size and inclination, to be led by illusions and imagine that such action could weaken Iraq or reduce its ability to protect itself and safeguard its vital interests.

Iraq—which has been courageously and heroically defending itself with a strong and resolute will and repulsing the most treacherous and savage force of darkness of this age, fighting with unparalleled ferocity

and achieving victories—knows how and what effective and successful methods it must use to ward off such harm. That must be clear to everyone without exception.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Pays Visit to Baghdad

Arrives 17 Jun

JN1706100488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. 'Arafat was received at the airport by the director and members of the RCC's Arab Liberation Movements Office.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN1906171988 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, 'Arafat expressed his heartfelt congratulations on the Iraqi Armed Forces' victories in liberating Iraqi Arab land. He also wished Iraq more victories. The participants discussed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

In addition, President leader Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat voiced their appreciation for the results of the conference, which stressed support for the Palestinian people's uprising, the PLO, and Iraq in its legitimate fight against Iranian aggression to achieve a just peace. The meeting also dealt with the situation in the Arab arena, with emphasis on the brave uprising in the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1906183588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad 19 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in his office this evening.

During the meeting, they reviewed the results of the Arab summit in Algiers and the developments in the brave uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and Foreign Ministry under secretary; Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in Baghdad.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2006073188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad today after a visit of several days to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

JN1806081388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief and defense minister of Bahrain, arrived in Baghdad this morning for a visit of several days to Iraq. He was met on arrival by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief and defense minister; the Army chief of staff; the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; members of the General Command of the Armed Forces; high-ranking military commanders; the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad; and the embassy staff.

Conveys Message to President

JN1806192288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force and Bahraini minister of defense.

Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah conveyed to the president leader the greetings of his brother His Excellency Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, as well as his congratulations on the victories scored by our valiant forces in their liberation of Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and the heights, secured through the "Ramadan Mubarak," "Tawakalna 'Ala Allah," and "Muhammad Rasul Allah" operations.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, the president's secretary, and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

Makes Statement, Leaves

JN1906180088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force and Bahraini minister of defense, ended his 2-day official visit to Iraq this evening and left for Manama. In a departure statement to INA, Shaykh Khalifah expressed his appreciation and admiration for the Iraqi Armed Forces' heroism and victories in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh]. [passage omitted].

'Aziz Returns From UN General Assembly Session

JN1706190688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1829 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here this evening after participating in the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. 'Aziz left Baghdad for New York last Saturday to participate in the meeting.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,222

JN2006164788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,222 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued to carry out their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force planes conducted 119 combat missions today. They inflicted destruction on the aggressors' positions and weapons and death on their scoundrels. Moreover, our rapacious hawks raided the Ilam military airport at 1945 [1545 GMT] yesterday. They scored two direct hits on two helicopters parked at the airport. After accomplishing all their missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The genuine knights of our helicopter gunships continued to carry out their combat duties in the operational sectors. They inflicted further losses on the enemy's personnel, equipment, and vehicles. After accomplishing 287 combat missions, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, praise be to God.

3. At 1823 yesterday, two enemy F-5 planes attempted to violate our international border in the sector of the Special I Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces. The men of our ground defenses confronted the enemy planes with violent fire and hit one of them. It was seen falling and exploding over the enemy units. The other plane escaped. God bless the men of our ground defenses in the Special I Army Corps. Praise be to God for His victory.

4. In the I Army Corps northern sector, 29 scoundrels were killed; 1 tank, 3 vehicles, and 1 infantry position were destroyed; and 1 ammunition dump was blown up. In the II Army Corps central sector, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

5. Four enemy troops were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 June 1988

Mojahedin Down Helicopter

JN2006205188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2036 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army's ground resistance today shot down an Iranian helicopter of the [word indistinct] type while it was flying over the positions of the Liberation Army, which controls the city of Mehran.

Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, monitored here today said that the Iranian helicopter tried to approach Liberation Army positions this morning, but was intercepted and its pilot was killed.

The radio added that a film showing how the helicopter was shot down will be screened on the Mojahedin-e Khalq television, which transmits from western Iran.

The Liberation Army occupied the city of Mehran yesterday, and killed, wounded, and captured thousands of Iranian troops.

Mehran Casualties Noted

NC2106142488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army has announced that at least 8,000 Iranian troops have either been killed or wounded and that 1,500 Iranians were taken prisoner during the liberation of the city of Mehran.

Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, said today that 32 regiments of Khomeyni's army and guards have been completely destroyed. The radio added that 1,500 Iranian troops, including dozens of colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, and captains have been captured. The Persian-language radio has announced a list containing the names of those officers, which includes Colonel ('Ali Akhbar Gholam Rezai), Lieutenant Colonel (Esmail Bidari), Major (Shamsallah Yari), and 19 lieutenants. [passage omitted]

Iranian F-5 Destroyed

JN2106104988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi ground defenses in the sector of the Special I Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces—downed an Iranian enemy F-5 this morning.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the enemy plane tried to approach the positions of an Iraqi forward unit at 0856 [0456 GMT] today.

The spokesman added that the ground defenses confronted the enemy plane and destroyed it. It was seen falling in flames in enemy territory before the Iraqi units.

Shomron on Reported Syrian-PRC Missile Deal

TA2006172588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Speaking at Haifa University this evening, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron commented on the reported Syrian-PRC missile deal.

[Begin Shomron recording] The role of these weapons in the arsenals of the Arab countries, particularly that of Syria, is first and foremost to deter us from pursuing a war which would bring about the collapse of the Syrian Army. This is in line with their operational concept, which is basically of a defensive nature, not to allow us to be the ones who decide the outcome of the war.

Of course, the moment such weapons exist and when, for example, they are equipped with chemical warheads, the damage can definitely be enormous. Our answers—and we will provide answers to these weapons—will be in various spheres: offensively, in terms of our ability to strike at the missiles and their launchers; second, in terms of the endurance of the civilian population and the ability to minimize the damage to the rearguard; third, in terms of our ability to develop means capable of intercepting surface-to-surface missiles in flight from their launching point to the target. [end recording]

Denies Agreement Exists

TA2106044688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The chief of staff says there is no agreement between the PRC and Syria on the supply of long-range missiles. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that in his opinion, reports on this matter should be treated as mere rumors. The missile in question is more advanced and precise than the Scud, but for the time being only the PRC has it.

Possible Missile Deal Analyzed

TA2006131588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Analysis by Ron Ben-Yishay: "The Chinese Missiles: The Money Is the Key"]

[Text] While the United States and the Soviet Union liquidate their medium and short-range surface-to-surface missiles, thus quitting this kind of arms race, and at a time when Europe is creeping out from under the threatening shadow of these missiles, the Middle East is enthusiastically entering that very race. This Middle East arms race was launched 2 years ago and is presently enjoying full momentum.

To compensate themselves for the deficiencies of their air forces, most Arab states, including Syria, are now frantically seeking such missiles.

If the Chinese M-9 missile does eventually reach the Syrians, it will give them a significant advantage. The missile's maximum range, double that of the Scud missile, will enable the Syrians to deploy them in launching sites situated in the depth of their territory north of Damascus, where Israel's long strategic arm cannot reach them.

Scud missiles are also capable of reaching Israeli population centers, but to do that the Syrians would have to launch them from a frontline area in the Golan Heights. This would render them vulnerable to Israeli attacks. Furthermore, if the speculations are confirmed and the Chinese missile proves to be more accurate than the Scud, this would be another advantage. It would also be reasonable to assume that the Syrians will purchase the missile with the option of either purchasing or developing a chemical warhead for it.

Yet there is no need to despair. All signs indicate that a long time will pass before the debated missile will become operational in Syria, if it ever does.

It is a fact that the Chinese are willing to sell to anyone who can prove there is money in their bank account. This is precisely where Syria's weakness lies. If the Gulf states or Libya do not agree to finance Al-Asad's Chinese surface-to-surface missile deal, it will never get off the ground. Syria's foreign currency reserves are almost depleted, and China does not sell on credit. It is, therefore, necessary to wait and see whether the deal is signed at all.

And this is precisely the lever the United States can use to foil the deal. U.S. pressure, coupled with an effort to persuade the Gulf states, can prevent Syria from obtaining the required financing. Al-Qadhdhafi himself is not very keen on parting with millions of his resources. The Soviet Union can also pressure the Syrians into stopping the deal. And who knows? Perhaps the very existence of the Syrian-Chinese negotiations, and the publicity accompanying them, is another sophisticated plot devised by Al-Asad to extort SS-23 missiles, which are so precise and long-range and which he covets so much, from the Soviets.

U.S.-USSR Plan 'Dramatic' Mideast Peace Move

TA2106103088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Amnon Levi, and Washington correspondent Victor Levi]

[Excerpt] The United States and the USSR might initiate a joint Middle East peace plan even before the elections in Israel and the United States. Over the past few days there have been signals from the United States of a dramatic Middle East move. It seems that such a step depends on the cooperation of the USSR and on the Kremlin's agreement to a joint formula on the makeup of the international conference. Discussions between the United States and the USSR showed a gap on two issues: the conference's powers and the question of Palestinian representation.

Knesset Member Ehud Olmert said yesterday that he received the impression from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that there is a possibility of a joint U.S.-USSR move.

The prime minister yesterday criticized the remarks attributed to Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, drawing a parallel between certain Israelis and the PLO on everything linked to the peace process.

Shamir believes that U.S.-USSR intervention in the Middle East will come at Israel's expense. Therefore Israel is not interested in a superpower agreement. Shamir was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He said Soviet President Andrey Gromyko's remarks 5 years ago—that if Israel agrees to an international conference the United States will accept the idea—have come true. Gromyko's remarks came true because of the activity of a certain Israeli element, Shamir said, hinting at Foreign Minister Peres. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies Knowledge of Plan

TA2106115688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. At the end of the meeting he said there is a rapprochement between the Soviet and U.S. positions on the international conference issue and a major change in the Soviet attitude toward Soviet Jewry. Shim'on Peres was asked whether the cases of arson and the murder in Sheqef Moshav indicate that the uprising has reached the Green Line boundaries.

[Begin recording] [Peres] One should take a look at those who perpetrated this. My impression is that so far most of the cases of arson and terrorism were carried out by residents from the territories, although some of them were carried out by elements within Israel. Nonetheless, we are facing a serious problem, but I am sure we will find ways to cope with it. Each time a new method of operation is introduced we need to study and analyze it and consider the best means to prevent or stop it.

[Correspondent Meron Tzur] Another matter: Yesterday a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ehud Olmert, said he knows that the Soviet Union and the United States are jointly preparing a peace plan for the Middle East. The foreign minister was asked whether he knows of the existence of such a plan:

[Peres] I know that negotiations are under way between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the international conference. I do not know of another plan, nor have I heard from any Israeli of the existence of such a plan. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew on 1100 GMT on 21 June adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Israel is using its contacts in the world on the matter of Syria's acquisition of long-range missiles from the PRC. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Peres said that we are using our contacts on this issue not only in the United States. The Soviets are also worried about the possibility of such missiles entering the area."]

Shamir Finds Murphy Remarks 'Hard To Believe'

TA2006164588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that he finds it hard to believe the remarks attributed to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who was quoted as having criticized leaders in the Middle East who adhere to the Camp David Accords.

Addressing himself to this issue in a meeting with an Australian parliamentary delegation, the prime minister said that those who do not take signed agreements seriously, and who do not make their utmost efforts to have them implemented, are pulling the rug out from under any future agreement in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif Document "Arafatist Test Balloon'

JN2006151888 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 20 Jun 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif stated at the end of last week that he was the one who wrote the document which was distributed at the Algiers summit and that he had sent this document in the form of an article to THE WASHINGTON POST. This document states that the PLO is ready to hold direct negotiations with Israel in an international conference, and that it is also ready to have Palestinians and Jews coexist and deal with each other. In this document, Abu Sharif said: We believe that all peoples, including the Jews and the Palestinians, have the right to take charge of their affairs, and to expect from their neighbors not only a state of non-enmity but also some kind of political and economic cooperation without which no country can be secure.

Abu Sharif's document drew conflicting reactions and assessments among the observers and international political fora. Some viewed it as an important development or a qualitative step forward because it adopts a new approach and is different from the PLO's previous statements and stands. Others viewed it as being only a test balloon 'Arafat has launched through his adviser Abu Sharif. A third party says that one must wait for a reaction by 'Arafat and other PLO leaders.

Undoubtedly, this document raises many questions. Perhaps, the most prominent of these questions is whether this document is only a new 'Arafatist test

balloon with no significance or importance. If it is not so, then why does the PLO not issue an official statement adopting this document without any beating around the bush? Why do PLO leaders not incorporate this document into their PLO charter?

It is true that the Israeli Government considers the PLO, or 'Arafat's organization a writeoff in any peace equation because it is an unqualified party in any peace conference with Israel. This is true in light of the current PLO charter, and in light of its criminal and terrorist nature, and its black record.

However, objective observers and analysts believe that if there is any glimpse of hope and likelihood that the PLO leaders can convince the world and international public opinion that they can be trusted and that they are a party that is qualified to participate in the peace process in the Middle East, then this glimpse of hope consists in their amending the PLO charter, renouncing terrorism, recognizing Israel's right to exist and to live in security, and accepting without any prevarications UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

'Double Agent' Affair Possible 'High-Level Mishap'

TA2006145488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 88 p 1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Double Agent Affair Raises a Question: This May Be Israeli Negligence"]

[Text] The recent intelligence affairs in Britain to which Israel's name has been linked should arouse concern here over whether there has not been a high-level mishap in several sensitive areas.

Israel has a justified complaint against the British Government over its harsh reaction to the activities of an Israeli double agent who operated in a PLO terrorist gang on British soil, but the affair can be viewed two ways. The tension did not start with the affair of the double agent.

The strangest affair is the story about the false British passports found in a bag in the FRG.

These passports somehow found their way from the FRG to London. The Israeli ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office and asked to explain the matter. If this is not part of a psychological warfare against Israel it is clear that someone fouled up here.

Many countries carry out secret intelligence activities. Britain itself has been shown to have a hand in such actions, as we have seen from the book "Spy Catcher," which refers to British infiltrations into the embassies of friendly countries. The rule in this twilight world, however, is not to get caught.

It cannot be claimed that Mrs Thatcher has been hostile toward Israel. When hostile elements in Britain incited against Israel over the Vanunu kidnapping it was Mrs Thatcher who rejected the attacks. She made do with a personal promise by Shim'on Peres that Vanunu was not kidnapped in Britain.

It is against the background of these events that the affair of the double agent in the PLO assassination squad was uncovered. It seems that it was the straw that broke the camel's back, and London decided to react to all the incidents.

There are strange details to this affair. The London court was told that the agent was in Israel when his part in the affair was uncovered. If this is correct it is clear that this is a another mishap. Why did Israel permit such a person to go back to England?

Despite everything, however, London's response was exaggerated. England is a friendly country and it is clear that the activities of the double agent were not aimed against Britain but against a terrorist gang which had carried out a murder on British soil. The charge that Israel should have told the British beforehand about the existence of such a double agent is ridiculous from a professional point of view since the British intelligence services have become known for their penetration by East European intelligence agents.

It should be recalled that several years ago a British diplomat, Ronna Ritchie, who served in Tel Aviv and spied with her Arab friend, was caught in Israel. She was put on trial in England but Israel's response at the time was was more cautious and considerate.

Shamir: Yugoslav Move on Ties 'Discrimination'

TA2106092288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed regret over the Yugoslav Parliament decision not to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. According to Mr Shamir, this constitutes discrimination against Israel, because Yugoslavia maintains diplomatic relations with countries whose policy it disagrees with.

Prime Minister Shamir told our correspondent Meron Tzur that he does not believe reports that the Soviet foreign minister said his talk with Minister Peres was more useful than his talk with Prime Minister Shamir.

Beilin Begins Talks at Polish Foreign Ministry

TA2006193088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Yosi Beilin, the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, today began his talks at the Polish Foreign Ministry in Warsaw. The Polish side was represented by Jan Majewski, under secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, the Polish representative in Israel, and officials from the Middle East department at the Polish Foreign Ministry.

Besides Dr Beilin, the meeting was attended by Mordekhay Peltzur, Israel's representative in Warsaw. Ambassador Peltzur told our correspondent Elihayu Zehavi that the talks, which were held in a most friendly atmosphere, dealt with the activities of the two representations and international subjects.

Sees Gradual 'Normalization'

TA2106084388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Inteview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, on his visit to Poland by correspondent Gid'on Remez on 20 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] This morning Dr Yosi Beilin, the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, begins a 2d day of talks in Warsaw with Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Tadeusz Olechowski and officials from his ministry. Following the first round of talks yesterday, Dr Beilin told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that the Poles are mainly interested in developing commercial ties and have raised several new proposals in this sphere. As for the political sphere, they did not settle for a mere repetition of familiar formulas.

[Remez] Dr Beilin, you met with the new Polish foreign affairs minister. Can you inform us of new developments in bilateral relations?

[Beilin] No, at this stage one cannot talk of new developments. The very fact of the meeting, the first of its kind, was very interesting. We discussed numerous bilateral issues, as well as international issues, particularly the Middle East. The meeting was very important from this point of view, as was the working session with Under Secretary of State Majewski and the heads of the various other departments at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. It is obvious that the Poles are mostly interested in the economic issues. They raised a series of topics in this regard. Some matters were technical, some have already been implemented. I also met with the under secretary of state at the Foreign Trade Ministry on this issue. There will be additional meetings with Israeli officials on economic issues in the near future.

[Remez] What should the two governments do in order to promote this?

[Beilin] There are several specific technical matters which the Poles raised in the talks, including matters which concern changing the Polish law on foreign investments. New possibilities have been opened here, with regard to allowing investments of more than 50 percent in Polish companies and allowing the establishment of totally non-Polish companies in Poland. This new development, which they made absolutely clear, may trigger Israeli and other interest in investments in Poland.

[Remez] This sounds almost like negotiations with a country with which we have had relations for a long time. Can one see actual normalization in this?

[Beilin] There is a slow, gradual process of normalization between the two countries. We do not want to force ourselves on them or rush them into more than they are prepared for. I believe that our relations with them are developing, as are our relations with Hungary and the USSR, and this is welcome, of course.

[Remez] On the political plane, do the Poles or the other Warsaw Pact members with which our relations are developing show any sign of a change or softening in their stance?

[Beilin] In the course of the day they mentioned their views on the Middle East, the international conference, and relations with the Arab countries. I would only say that neither they nor we spoke in terms of formulas.

[Remez] May one expect a reciprocal visit by a Polish official soon, on your or possibly a higher level?

[Beilin] I did not hear of anything like this, but I surely intend to invite my host, the under secretary of state at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, for a visit in Israel.

[Remez] Dr Beilin, thank you and good luck.

Jordanian Envoy Cancels Knesset Members Reception

TA2106162388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Jordan's ambassador in Brussels canceled a reception planned for Israeli Knesset Members [MK's] at the last minute. The reception was to have been held for a delegation of Israeli liberal figures headed by MK's Yitzhaq Artzi and Zaydan 'Atshah which also included a group of pro-Jordanian Palestinians. MK Yitzhaq Artzi said that the meeting was scheduled to take place about a week ago, 1 day after the Algiers summit. He believes the reception was called off as a result of the summit.

Adviser Leaves for Tabah Talks in Washington

TA1906082688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry legal adviser Robert Sabel will leave for Washington today or tomorrow for preliminary talks with Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, the Egyptian representative to the Tabah conciliation talks.

The decision to send the legal adviser was made this morning by the prime minister's forum and was based on Prime Minister Shamir's proposal. Sabel has been requested to report to the cabinet on Egypt's negotiating positions, according to which the cabinet will decide its future moves. This step by the prime minister's forum means, in fact, that they have postponed the decision on the U.S. proposal to renew the conciliation negotiations while requesting the arbitration panel to delay their decision. This development in the Tabah issue was reported by correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar.

Shamir Thanks Ceausescu for Jewish Policy

TA2006064688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir thanked President Nicolae Ceausescu in very warm terms for allowing Romanian Jews to lead Jewish lives and for understanding their ties to Israel. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh says these remarks were made during a special ceremony honoring Romania's chief rabbi on the 40th anniversary of his appointment. [passage omitted]

Shamir Urges Japan To Expand Economic Ties

OW2106035988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Jerusalem, June 20 KYODO—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he hopes Japan will expand its relations with Middle East countries and be able to participate in the efforts to bring peace to the area.

Shamir was speaking in an interview with KYODO news service at his office before Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno's tour of four Middle East countries including Israel begins Tuesday.

Shamir said he was looking forward to Uno's visit to Israel, saying it "will open a new era in the relations between the two countries."

Uno will visit Israel Sunday after touring Syria, Jordan and Egypt. He will be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Israel.

Uno also plans to visit a Palestine refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and is expected to meet Palestinians.

Shamir said that Japan is an economic superpower and he understood that it was interested in exerting a commensurate political influence.

He also said, "we don't need troops from foreign countries. We need more economic involvement."

In his meeting with Uno, Shamir said, he will ask him to call on Japanese companies to stop boycotting Israel and to promote their presence in the country.

The Israeli premier said he does not see progress in the peace efforts in the near future. "It is difficult to foresee considerable developments before the elections in Israel and the United States"—both taking place in November this year.

Shamir repeated his objection to an international conference on Middle East peace proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, saying, "we are great believers in direct negotiation. I believe in the positive outcome of face-to-face meetings and discussions."

On the uprising of the Arabs in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Shamir expressed optimism. "I think that this riot will come to an end because more Arabs understand that they can get nothing by violence, except suffering and human losses," he said.

Leaders Congratulate Ozal on Escaping Attack

Shamir Sends Telegram

TA1906150088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a telegram to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal congratulating him for escaping yesterday's assassination attempt.

Peres Message

TA1906102088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent a congratulatory message to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal who escaped an assassination attempt yesterday. Peres wished a speedy recovery to Ozal and the other people wounded in the attack.

Rabin, Bar-Lev Brief Cabinet on Arson, Unrest

TA2006125588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Over the last week the the number of incidents in the areas controlled by the police and border police has risen to 121, with most of them taking place in Jerusalem. This was reported to the cabinet yesterday by Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev. Meeting in its capacity as Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, the cabinet yesterday heard reviews of current affairs from the defense and police affairs ministers, as well as from the chief of staff. Bar-Lev said that most of the incidents involved arsons and stone throwing. Out of the 121 incidents recorded in police files, 43 were arsons and 41 involved stone throwing.

The defense minister and chief of staff reported that no rise in incidents has taken place in their areas. Firebombs remain the main problem, and the army is learning how to fight it. The soldiers have been instructed to shoot at the bottle throwers. Also, houses are demolished or sealed off according to the gravity of the incident. The objective is individualized punishment.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i argued that the intifada [uprising] in the territories is coordinated and operated by a central command. He asked Rabin what the army was doing to dismantle this command. Rabin replied that the policy is to detain every person suspected of organizing or coordinating the incidents. Moda'i further asked why a stone thrown from a sling is not considered a weapon by the army. He mentioned that David killed Goliath in this way. Rabin answered that it is very difficult to say whether this is a weapon or not. He has asked for

clarifications on the matter from Attorney General Yosef Harish. Shamir, who did not like the exchange, apparently informed Harish that an immediate opinion is not necessary.

The defense minister told the cabinet that the defense authorities act against the dissemination of PLO leaflets. Due to the tax strike it is difficult for the authorities to operate the education and health systems. The possibility of imposing education and health fees is being considered. David Levi wondered why Minister Rabin found it necessary to hold frequent meetings with senior PLO members in the territories. Rabin replied that he does not deviate from guidelines, and does not meet with personages that could potentially be detained.

Prime Minister Shamir said that last week he convened a meeting of all elements involved in fighting fires. It was decided to set up a steering committee, headed by Ya'aqov Markovitz, the Interior Ministry deputy director general. An appeal will also be made to voluntary organizations and the public to help the anti-arson struggle. It was noted that the Jewish National Fund, the Nature Reserves Authority, the border police, and those engaged in aerial surveillance are already dedicating more attention to the subject. They will all be on the alert for Wednesday, 22 June, a day declared by the PLO as a day to damage Israeli agriculture. Minister Bar-Lev noted that no special legislation against the arsonists is necessary since the existing law makes it possible to sentence arsonists to a prison term of up to 15 years.

Mitzna' Sees No Return to Pre-Uprising Situation

TA1806082488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, said that the character of the uprising in the territories changes from time to time as a result of the IDF's reactions to and handling of the situation. According to him, when one problem is solved another emerges elsewhere. Gen Mitzna' said we realized long ago that the army would be forced to remain in the territories for a long time, something for which the IDF is preparing. He believes that the situation will never be the same as before December 1987. Mitzna' was interviewed by our military affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe.

As for the cases of arson, Mitzna' said that the phenomenon had existed before, but has assumed new dimensions. The IDF is preparing to combat it on all levels.

Regarding his trip to the United States, he said that the Americans understand our real need to handle events firmly, but do not understand and thus complain about the issue of individual rights.

20 Arabs Detained in Sheqef Moshav Murder

TA2006174888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] A curfew was imposed on the Arab villages close to the Sheqef moshav in the Lakhish district where Eliyahu Kohen, 33, was murdered last night apparently by terrorists. Some 20 Arabs were detained for questioning. [passage omitted]

Curfews Lifted on 8 Villages

TA2106111688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The investigation into the death of Eli Kohen shows he was stabbed seven times in the back and battered with a steel pipe. Security forces last night imposed a curfew on eight Arab villages near Moshav Sheqef and conducted extensive searches in the area. The curfew was lifted this morning. Eli Kohen will be buried at Giv'at 'Ada this afternoon.

Arab Journalist Jailed for Inciting Violence

TA1606132688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jun 88 p A9

[Report by Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian news agency [as published] journalist was sentenced by the Nabulus military court to 4 years in prison for participating in a demonstration and instigating the demonstrators to throw Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers.

Bassam Sadiq Husayn Samihad, 26, of Rummanah in the Janin district, committed these offenses during an April demonstration staged in his village. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

1 Injured in Nabulus Casbah

TA2006192188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] A riot took place in the casbah of Nabulus this evening. Our correspondent Steve Rodan reports that youths hurled stones and bottles at soldiers, and the latter retaliated with rubber bullets and tear gas. It has been reported from a local hospital that one of the rioters was injured in the knee.

2 Soldiers Injured in Gaza

TA2006201888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Two soldiers were injured by a firebomb in the center of Gaza this evening. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the firebomb was thrown at their vehicle while they were driving on Omar

al-Mukhtar Street. The security forces searched the area and detained several suspects. The wounded soldiers were transferred to the Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

During the day, the Civilian Administration in Gaza closed down four schools in the Gaza Strip, one in Khan Yunus, and three in Rafah following disturbances staged by the students.

The owners of a workshop in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp which sewed PLO flags have been arrested.

2 Injured in Nabulus Incidents

TA2106133188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Stones were thrown in Nabulus at an Israeli citizen driving his car. The man said he fired in the air, but Arab sources reported that one of the local residents was injured. The IDF spokesman's office told our correspondent that there is no information about any casualties. There were riots today in the village of Burqa' in the Nabulus District. An IDF unit was stopped by a roadblock and stones were thrown at it. The unit's soldiers opened fire and one local resident was injured.

6,000 Under Detention

TA2106061788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] At present, 6,000 residents of the territories are under detention in lockup facilities throughout the country. Half of them are administrative detainees. This has been learned by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Increase in Rights Violations

TA2006194988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The Association for Civil Liberties says that there has been a large increase in violations of civil liberties in Israel and the territories. Judge Eli Natan, the chairman of the association, told a news conference that 20 Arabs have recently been killed in the territories, but not by security forces. Investigations have been placed on a back burner and nobody has been punished.

The heads of the association also voiced their concern about the policy of giving the Arab inhabitants of the territories the run around.

The news conference was told that Shim'on Agranat, the former president of the Supreme Court, has agreed to become president of the association in place of Judge Hayim Kohen who resigned for health reasons.

Arab Air Forces' Technological Advances Assessed

TA1906112188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Increasing access to Western tactics and strategic doctrines by Arab air forces could pose an even greater threat to Israel than their acquisition of the latest-model fighters and weapons systems, according to a senior IDF commander.

Though he was "very worried" by the technological advances made by the Arab air forces, such as Syria's acquisition of the Soviet MiG-29 fighter and long-distance anti-aircraft missiles, the commander said he was even more concerned by the West's sharing of tactical knowledge with Arab purchases of Western military products.

From this point of view, he said, he would rather see Arab countries supplied with MiG-29s than with U.S. F-15s and F-16s, or the West European-built Tornados. Western suppliers conduct massive training programmes with their Arab clients, he said, and this knowledge is shared within the Arab world.

The commander noted that the Soviet Union, in the Gorbachev era, is demanding a full price and providing less credit for its military hardware.

In the meantime, he said, because of the steady technological improvements made by the Arab air forces, the main advantage the Israel Air Force has is in its military doctrine and especially the quality of its manpower. The IAF is continuing to upgrade the aircraft in its possission, he said. With the cancellation of the Lavi project, the IAF will rely on its array of F-16s, F-15s, Phantoms, Skyhawks and Kfirs well beyond the year 2000.

The IAF's aging Skyhawks will continue to serve until about 2005 following their conversion into trainers for advanced stages of pilot training. The commander said the U.S. Navy has decided on a similar plan for its Skyhawks over the same time period.

In the event of war, the commander said, the Skyhawks will still be able to perform some "assistance tasks." The Phantom 2000 upgrading programme will meanwhile keep that dependable aircraft in the IAF's order of battle until past 2000.

Overall, the commander said, the Israel Air Force still has an overwhelming deterrent capability vis-a-vis the Arab states. Syria, for example, had devoted billions of dollars to build its massive air defence system.

While Syria's missile defences pose a serious challenge to the IAF, the cost of the system, had it been invested in tanks instead, could have supplied Syria with five or six more armoured divisions, an attack force which could have tipped the scales on land dramatically in its favour.

Investigations of Recent Explosions Continue

JN2006155888 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 20 (GNA)—Jordanian Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani Monday said that those responsible for the recent explosions in Jordan has [as received] become "known" to the authorities and investigations are continuing to obtain further information.

Jordan has witnessed a number of terroristic acts during the first half of this year, the first of which was on April 16 and the second was only three days later. The two incidents injured several citizens, inflicting minor material loss.

In an interview with Kuwaiti daily 'AL-WATAN', the Jordanian minister added that he will not disclose the names of the parties involved in these incidents for "security reasons," until persons who actually performed the explosions are pinpointed.

He noted that the explosions aimed at influencing Jordan's policy, the same reason for similar incidents in the 50's and 60's.

Replying to a question on those who call for opening Arab borders with Israel for Palestinian commando operations to back the uprising, the minister responded that such a call does not go along with the position declared by the PLO.

Israeli Report on Brussels Meeting Denied

JN2106130088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A Jordanian information source has denied a report carried by Israeli radio yesterday, 20 July 1988, during its 1430 newscast, that the Jordanian ambassador in Brussels cancelled a scheduled meeting with Israeli Knesset members.

The Jordanian information source stated that this report is completely unfounded, that the meeting that was to take place in Brussels is what was called a meeting for peace—which would have included Israeli figures and prominent European Jews as well as figures from the occupied Arab territories, including Akram Haniyah, Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Ahmad al-Khalidi, 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, and others—and that Jordan has nothing to do with this or any similar meeting.

The spokesman also explained that publicizing such fabricated and false news is part of the current campaign against Jordan's clear and decisive position that Jordan will not represent the PLO and will not substitute for any party at a conference pertaining to the Palestine question.

Prince Hasan Condemns Attempt on Ozal's Life

JN1806152288 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Amman, 18 Jun (PETRA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, sent a cable to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal today condemning the sinful attempt on his life during the opening of the Motherland Party Congress today. His highness wished Ozal continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people progress and prosperity.

Murphy Tour Not Event of 'Specific Importance'

JN1706085188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jun 88, p 1

[Editorial: "Murphy... Where to...?"]

[Text] Until now, Murphy's expected tour of the region has not drawn a substantial amount of attention in the Arab arena. This caution means that U.S. envoys' visits, on all levels, are not events of specific importance to the Arab scene. This is despite the partial development in the U.S. stand, represented by an end to U.S. opposition to an international peace conference to realize a just and comprehensive peace, and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights on their own soil.

This development, which coincides with the approaching end of President Reagan's last term in office, has made the U.S. stand appear much like a temporary tactical position, since there is no guarantee that the next U.S. Administration will adhere to this development and work toward holding the peace conference. It is likely that the new administration will use the traditional excuse, which all previous U.S. Administrations used over and over again; namely, that it has to be given enough time to study the Palestine question.

Therefore, the lack of enthusiasm over Murphy's expected visit is in itself a positive phenomenon, indicating that the Arabs do not attribute to U.S. moves in the region dimensions that exceed their true size. They know now, more than ever before, that these moves depend on Arab action and that their continuation depends on the effect this action has on events in the region.

At any rate, Murphy will hear nothing different from what Shultz heard before in any of the Arab capitals he will visit. If he wants to beautify the image of the present U.S. Administration in the Arab arena before the expiration of its term, this beautification process does not concern the Arabs very much because they believe that deeds and not words are of the essence, especially since the past 4 years have been full of lessons that will not be forgotten.

U.S. Accused of Encouraging Kurdish Separatists

JN1806083088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jun 88 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masariwah: "Kurdish Separatists and the U.S. State Department"]

[Text] The reception by the U.S. State Department of Jalal Talabani, a leading Kurdish separatist and an ally of the Khomeyni regime in Tehran, and the verbal predicament of the State Department spokesman, which he suspiciously tried to retract, have not captured the attention of many people. The separation game in Iraq was violent and futile during the days of the shah. He used it for many years in an undeclared war against Iraq. This game is now more violent and futile, with the Kurdish people in Iraq, as well as those in Iran and Turkey, paying the price.

We have almost forgotten about Jalal Talabani since 1974. He misled us in Cairo as a "progressive," exactly as Mustafa Barzani misled us in 1958 as a "general in the Red Army." The progressive and the general ended up allying themselves with the shah, the CIA, and the Israeli Mosad. In 1974, the shah sold them all. They ended up in the United States, where Mustafa Barzani died. His son Mas'ud and Jalal Talabani appeared once again on the stage, entering from the same door, although circumstances in Tehran had changed.

The Kurdish problem is a victim of geography. This torn nation fell between historically polarized superpowers—between the Arabs, the Persians, and the Turks. It has never been a political entity comprising all densely populated Kurdish sites. Since the twenties, Iraq has not been a cause of Kurdish disintegration, which precedes the establishment of modern Iraq.

Perhaps Iraq was the only country in the region that officially recognized Kurdish nationalism; granted the northern regions autonomy, an elected council, and an executive organ similar to a council of ministers—excluding foreign affairs, defense and planning; encouraged Kurdish language, tradition, and heritage; and consecrated the partnership of the two nationalities through a vice president and RCC member.

The reappearance of Kurdish separatist activities through Iranian and American help is only the beginning and points to the kind of alliances that the region will witness. By canceling the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and George Shultz, Iraq has firmly responded to the reception of Talabani and the statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman. Any U.S. retreat will conceal nothing of the conspiracy.

Washington is prepared to encourage every separatist movement in the Arab homeland as part of its constant readiness to hurt this nation. It does not matter whether this is acheived through Mengistu Mariam, Hissein Habre, Ruhollah Khomeyni, or Samir Ja'ja'. There are no principled constants in politics.

Iraq, steadfast over many years of war, is able to foil this violent and futile separatist game. The Kurdish people, considering what they have accomplished, will not sell their achievements for the sake of some groups that place themselves at the disposal of the most degenerate regimes and the most corrupt intelligence institutions in the world, which reject such groups for their own interests.

Neither Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani, nor the separatist group can do anything practical in northern Iraq except harm the Kurdish people. We must admit this.

Further Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

2 Killed in Shatila

NC2006171688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The follow-up committee charged with consolidating the cease-fire in the camps will meet tonight to deal with this afternoon's new setback in Shatila camp. A Fatah source attributed the exchange of artillery fire, the sound of which was heard throughout Beirut, particularly after 1600, to the fact that an 'Arafat supporter was hit by sniper fire. His comrades opened fire to protect themselves while they evacuated him. Artillery emplacements in the Sports City and Bi'r Hasan also were involved in the clashes after 1700.

According to preliminary reports, two persons were killed and no less than three others were wounded.

Cease-Fire Takes Effect

NC2006171988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The intensity of clashes in Shatila subsided 15 minutes ago following fierce fighting that raged at 1530 today. A PNSF source has stated that a cease-fire agreement was reached at 1800, but only came into effect after 1930. The source added that the follow-up committee charged with consolidating the cease-fire in the camps headed toward the Shatila camp to calm the situation.

Follow-Up Committee Meets

NC2006192988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] A Palestinian statement was issued tonight on the follow-up committee's meeting in Beirut. The statement notes that the committee, which was to implement the agreement reached yesterday, failed to do so due to certain obstacles that emerged this afternoon. The statement further adds that the committee agreed on the following points:

1. The cease-fire agreement should be honored;

2. The security force should be ready to implement the agreement at 1000 tomorrow;

3. The joint Lebanese-Palestinian committee will hold a meeting, after which the committee will go to Burj al-Barajinah camp to supervise implementation of the agreement reached yesterday; and

4. The security force will be reestablished after the meeting of the Shatila local committee, in order to implement the agreement.

Fighting Resumes in Camps

NC2106120788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] According to security sources, ferocious fighting involving the use of rockets and machineguns is currently raging along the combat lines of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. The sources added that the Palestinian-Lebanese follow-up committee is endeavoring to reach a cease-fire agreement between the two wings of the Fatah Movement.

5 Killed, 25 Wounded

NC2106140688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Violent clashes are continuing between 'Arafat's group and those who oppose him in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps. The combatants are using artillery, heavy machineguns, and antiaircraft guns in the fighting. The two camps are currently coming under artillery bombardment from Fatah dissident and Syrian emplacements in the mountain area and the Sports City. Shortly before 1600, shells fell on the airport road, Al-Rasul al-A'zam Mosque, the Al-'Annan axis, and the Arab University building. The exploding shells have caused an undetermined number of casualties. Shells have fallen as far away as Al-Hazimiyah and its environs.

According to security sources, 5 people have been killed and more than 25 others wounded in today's clashes.

SLA Foils Attempt To Capture Position

TA1906065288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Dozens of Hizballah men this morning attempted to take over a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position at the village of Bra'shit, near the security zone border. The SLA troops repelled the attacking force without sustaining casualties. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that the Hizballah attackers used light weapons and antitank missiles.

Counters With Shelling

TA1906161988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] tanks and artillery fired dozens of shells at terrorist targets north of the security zone. The fire was directed mainly at the area surrounding Bra'shit, where this morning SLA soldiers foiled an Hizballah attempt to take over an SLA position on the security zone border. The SLA suffered no casualties.

'Resistance' Shells 2 Israeli Settlements

NC2006111088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] A national Lebanese resistance group shelled the Misgav 'Am and Metulla settlements with rockets at dawn today. The occupation forces immediately lit the skies in the area with dozens of flares and opened fire from their artillery positions in Tilal al-Ahmadiyah. One shell fell in the liberated area of Zibqin. The enemy radio admitted the operation and said the rockets were fired from the so-called security strip.

Clashes in South Reported; Strike in Camps

NC2006122988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] In response to a call by Palestinian organizations, a general strike was staged in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps. Roads were cut off and the camp inhabitants gathered in the streets to protest against the fighting in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps and to urge a stronger Palestinian unity against the enemies.

In another development, Lahd agent militias this morning shelled Bra'shit from their positions on the overlooking hills. Clashes between the popular liberation army and the agent militia, using machineguns and rockets, have been taking place since this morning on the battle lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir.

Al-Huss Leaves on Official Visit to Syria

NC2106080788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning in response to an official invitation from the Syrian leadership. He will meet with senior officials, led by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, for talks on the situation in Lebanon.

Returns From Damascus

NC2106143188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut from Damascus at 1500 today. While in Damascus, the acting prime minister held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on the recent developments in the Lebanese and Arab arenas.

In a statement at the end of his meeting with Khaddam, Dr al-Huss said: We discussed the outcome of the Arab summit in Algiers, and the meeting that the Lebanese and Syrian presidents held on the sideline of the summit. We also discussed various issues affecting the Lebanese situation, particularly the constitutional deadline and the means necessary to pave the way for the presidential elections, which will hopefully achieve the aspirations of all the Lebanese people.

In response to a question about the talks concerning the Lebanese-Syrian summit, Dr al-Huss said: I have nothing to disclose in this regard.

Amal Urges Coordinated Effort Against Israel

NC1606170188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] On the 4th anniversary marking the martyrdom of Bilal Bahs, the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau has urged all the national and Islamic forces to move their weapons from the various combat lines throughout the homeland to the South. The bureau further urged all these forces to coordinate their efforts within the framework of the operations room for the sake of liberating the land and ending the Israeli occupation.

Meanwhile, the movement's political bureau held a joint meeting with the executive committee this afternoon under the chairmanship of Colonel 'Akif Haydar, deputy leader of the Amal Movement. The conferees dealt with a number of political and organizational issues. The bureau issued a statement at the end of the meeting paying tribute to the heroic operations carried out by the movement's strugglers against the Zionist enemy and his agents.

On the political level, the political bureau has maintained that Lebanon is passing through a grave stage marked by the end of the president's term and the approach of the constitutional deadline. The bureau cautioned against holding elections without first turning them into a real opportunity for achieving a solution through national accord, because without this accord it will be impossible to achieve the factors necessary for maintaining Lebanon's stability.

Hizballah Reacts to Reconciliation Conditions

NC1606185988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] A Hizballah official has responded to a statement made by Minister Nabih Birri regarding a reconciliatory meeting with Hizballah leaders. The official said that Birri's continuous attempts to jump over the facts and to absolve himself from his responsibility for the bloodshed in the South and the suburb, as well as his talk about his tolerance toward Hizballah and his readiness to meet with its leaders provided preset conditions are met—some of which he dictates and which, in his view, must be included in a written agreement—are merely intended for public consumption.

These efforts, the official added, will not abrogate his responsibility for crimes against Islam, which is confronting Israel, as the Hizballah official put it.

Birri Comments on Relations With Hizballah

NC1806055988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri returned from Damascus yesterday. It seems he did not hold reconciliation meetings with Minister Walid Junblatt or Hizballah delegation members.

On relations with Hizballah, Birri noted that what is required is a clear, written statement on the issues that caused the differences, particularly the acts of aggression against the South, the Amal Movement, and the southern suburb, and Hizballah's stand on relations with Syria. He added: After we, and Hizballah, clearly express our written views on these issues, holding a meeting between us will no longer be a problem.

On relations with Minister Junblatt, Birri said that an agreement with him must be based on finding a unified stand on the presidential elections and unifying our ranks on this issue.

Birri Calls for Accord Before Elections

NC2006140788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said today that before President al-Asad met President al-Jumayyil, there had been much trumpeting of the theme that Syria was obstructing accord among the Lebanese because it had closed off all channels of contact with the Lebanese regime. Now, after the Algiers summit, we do not know what the pretext is. What is required now is a speedy and courageous initiative designed to achieve accord before the presidential elections. We cannot resolve the Lebanese problem by electing a president of the Republic, or by propping up or dissolving the government. The problem lies first and foremost in the absence of national accord. To those who maintain that external factors have caused our problem, we say that it is internal defects that permitted foreign interference. Had it not been for our weak system, the Israelis would not have been able to invade Lebanon. The Israeli invasion is the cause of all the problems that have arisen.

Birri added: We must fortify our house from inside and then all problems will be solved. There are two presidential candidates. We will either achieve accord and, consequently, unity, or we will have partition, which will lead to disintegration and loss. We say to those who insist on elections being held before accord is achieved, that the Chamber of Deputies elected three presidents after the seditious war broke out in Lebanon. Did these elections take us one step forward? We can only resist and reject this approach, not only out of concern for our rights, which have been forfeited and violated, but also out of concern for Lebanon's survival.

Ja'ja' Escapes Assassination Attempt 7 Jun

NC1806173988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] The REUTER news agency quotes security sources as saying today that the Lebanese Forces foiled an attempt to assassinate its leader Dr Samir Ja'ja' and a number of his aides. The plan was being prepared by the Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces Executive Committee chairman] group, and called for exploding a booby-trapped car during a meeting of the Lebanese Forces Council on 7 June.

The security sources said that the Lebanese Forces raided a garage in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and arrested four persons who were in the process of booby-trapping a car with 200 kg of explosives, which they planned to park at the Lebanese Forces headquarters and detonate during the council's meeting.

Paqraduni Rejects Army Deployment in E. Beirut

JN1906190688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Jun 88 pp 1, 21

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a meeting was held between President Amin al-Jumayyil and lawyer Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces. During the meeting, Paqraduni was briefed on the outcome of the Lebanese president's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Algiers. Citing President al-Jumayyil, Paqraduni's sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the Syrian president informed Al-Jumayyil during their meeting in Algiers that Damascus first sets as a condition to the formation of a new government or the floating [ta'wim] of the current government deployment of the Lebanese Army in East Beirut and withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces from it.

Paqraduni's sources added that since the Army's deployment in East Beirut is out of the question at present, the formation of a new government is impossible in the current phase. Yesterday, presidential palace sources said the possibility of floating the current government is not ruled out, especially since the formation of a new government will create political tensions, which the country cannot endure under these crucial circumstances. The sources pointed out that this topic will be subjected to lengthy discussions between Beirut and Damascus in the coming phase in order to provide an appropriate atmosphere to the presidential elections on 23 July.

Replying to a question on the rumors about the formation of a new government or the floating of the current government following the Algiers summit, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said yesterday: If appropriate

political circumstances are provided to treat the abnormal government situation, then it would be natural to make such a treatment through the formation of a new government and not through the floating of the current government.

Fadlallah Hails Syrian Move into Suburb
PM1506150788 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report on interview with Shi'ite scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah; date, place not given]

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has emphasized that the Lebanese people are proud of the stands adopted by struggler Hafiz al-Asad and consider him a definite guarantor of their fateful causes both at the level of tackling the internal crisis in Lebanon and at the level of resisting Israel and defeating it in the occupied South.

In an interview with TISHRIN on suburb developments and the role played by Syria in restoring security and stability and protecting people's lives and property, Shaykh Fadlallah said: We all support the stands adopted by President al-Asad in his capacity as leader with a conscious strategy and as the only Arab leader who senses the Zionist danger and who makes great sacrifices in the confrontation with Israel.

He added: To us, the incidents which occurred in the Beirut suburb were a very deep and severe wound because we view all kinds and forms of internal fratricide at any level as something destructive to our paramount causes. We want all the Lebanese people to unite in the great task of expelling Israel and putting pressure on all imperialist interests, particularly interests of the United States and Israel, that want to Americanize the region. We want the people to unite against reactionaries at home whose aim is to perpetuate political backwardness and deprivation and who seek to turn Lebanon into an Israeli farm.

Shaykh Fadlallah pointed out that the Lebanese nationalist forces have no alternative but to unite within one consistent framework of struggle. The struggle should respond to the political reality of movement toward ending the crisis in the interest of the people.

He added: That is why we have opposed domestic infighting. It can be said that the U.S. and Zionist intelligence services have managed to penetrate the arena and create a confused situation, causing people upholding the same cause to live in fear, suffering from a political complex. That is why they have taken a political vacation and have, therefore, forgotten Israel and the United States. Involvement in internal disputes has made them forget their fateful causes. That is why it was our view that the bloodshed which has continued for a long time and has nearly destroyed all causes permanently should be referred to a security authority trusted by everyone.

Hence, the unanimous support for the position of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad as the leader with a mature strategy; the sole Arab leader who is aware of the Zionist danger and who, therefore, makes great sacrifices in the confrontation with Israel. We believe that the way he has sponsored the agreement to end the bloodshed with such realism and flexibility represents, in everyone's view, a strategy which says to everyone: Infighting here is not allowed. The only fighting permitted is against Israel and the reactionaries.

He referred to the lax conditions that had prevailed in the suburb, making it easy and providing opportunity for suspect intelligence services to steer the political situation toward relaxation on issues of destiny and toward deviation in the direction of suspect circles in connection with the Lebanese question. President al-Asad's even-handedness enables him to keep these suspect circles at bay so that everyone can turn to the desired task of securing Lebanon's future.

Shaykh Fadlallah added: Everyone is in favor of strategic solidarity with Lebanon in fulfillment of the rules of confrontation with Israel and all for which it stands, as well as imperialism and reaction, the aim of which is to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Being open-minded, we are with President al-Asad in his open strategy in the entire region and we have told everyone: Whoever fights Israel is on Syria's side.

In conclusion, Shaykh Fadlallah said: We trust President al-Asad and we see him as a guarantor of Lebanon's fateful cause, and we believe that no power on earth other than Syria can stop the bloodshed in the suburb.

Radio Calls U.S. Regional Peace Policy 'Trap'

JN1906142788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American moves in the region continue under the cover of the Shultz plan, which seeks to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and clear the air for the administration that will succeed President Reagan's. That will enable the new administration to continue its efforts on the basis of the plan if it fails during the remaining 6 months of Reagan's second term. The United States believes it has the most realistic solution. It goes further than that, calling the plan an indivisible whole and a result of America's political concept, which takes the various interests into account.

At this particular point, when Washington shuffles the cards, we can see a difference in positions, as the U.S. Administration makes no distinction between the aggressor and the victim or between the party that occupies land and the party whose land is occupied. Through this shuffling, the occupier makes a concession, for instance, when he gives up some of the land he occupies, while the party that agrees to give up part of his occupied land is not making a concession. By relinquishing any part of these occupied lands, one submits to the occupier's will.

Therefore, the two situations are different, just as the aggressor and the victim who lost his land are different. The realism peddled by the U.S. Administration is based on this concept, which has nothing to do with the UN Charter and the resolutions passed by its institutions, including the Security Council and the General Assembly. This is proven through statements made by President Reagan, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, and other American officials saying that they disagree with Israel's return to the borders that existed before June 1967. They also oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the pretext that it would pose a threat to Israel.

Under the guise of political realism, the Reagan administration is trying to get just part of the land returned instead of all the occupied Arab territories. By objecting to an independent Palestinian state, it is trying to deny the right of self-determination confirmed by the international charter. As such, the United States is opposed to an international conference with broad powers. Instead, it wants an international conference that would be a framework for direct negotiations but would have no power to impose solutions.

Thus, Washington seeks to deceive. An international conference that enjoys powers means one that can implement international resolutions. However, an international conference deprived of powers cannot implement resolutions and will open the way for bargaining between the aggressor and the victim through direct negotiations. The result will be unilateral agreements like the Egyptian-Israeli accord, which forced Egypt to place its commitments to the Zionist enemy before those to the Arabs. At the same time, it has agreed to the occupation of Tabah, Sinai as a demilitarized zone, and the flying of the Israeli flag in Cairo. Meanwhile, the Israeli enemy practices the ugliest and bloodiest crimes in the occupied Arab territories.

Thus, America's call for a realistic policy to solve the regional conflict is only a maneuver or trap to foil efforts to convene a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East. It is also an attempt to market unilateral settlements based on the Camp David accords, which call for submission to U.S.-Zionist hegemony and plans to devour the land and liquidate the Palestinian question.

Paper Criticizes Iraqi-U.S. 'Coordination'

JN1906144188 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus, 19 Jun (SANA)—In a comment today, the newspaper TISHRIN notes that Iraq's coordination with the United States on every issue connected with the Iraqi regime's role in the region has been so great that Baghdad's agencies and news media can no longer deceive the progressive public in the world or in Iraq.

The paper explains that the Iraqi regime's behavior toward the political, economic, and social buildup of the fraternal Iraqi people is in complete harmony with Washington's desires to undermine the bases which the masses may resort to in their political and trade unionist battle against the regime and its tools. TISHRIN adds that the Iraqi regime continues to implement U.S. policy through full coordination with the U.S. Administration at times, and with the Egyptian regime, in its capacity as the Israeli godfather, at other times.

The paper holds that the summit of the presidents of the Egyptian and Iraqi regimes when the Arabs were meeting to discuss ways to support the uprising in the occupied homeland was aimed at surrounding Arab efforts and making joint endeavors to open a loophole in these efforts to undermine them or limit their expansion and comprehensive nature.

Concluding, TISHRIN says the Arab masses realize the actual role and position of the regime that is in line with the surrender of the Camp David regime and they know how to deal with it, just as peoples have dealt with the capitulationists who violated their aspirations.

Commentary Analyzes Egypt's Role in Arab World

JN1606154388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: He who was near or far from the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers knows that the subject of Egypt's return to the summit or to the Arab

League was not on the agenda. The summit had only one topic to discuss, namely the uprising and means to support and continue it as an expression and embodiment of the spirit of the continuous Arab confrontation and steadfastness. Since it is related to the same topic, the Arab summit had to discuss means to support Arab steadfastness in general, foremost being the issue of continuing support for the steadfastness of the Arab confrontation states.

We say that the Egyptian regime's return was irrelevant. Despite this, the summit was preceded by a series of statements on this issue. Another series of statements and comments on the same issue was presented in a manner that made the situation appear as if the summit had disappointed some expectations and sides that desired and insisted on the issue of the Egyptian regime's return to the summit or the Arab league. It is necessary to devote efforts, including media efforts, to securing all forms of means of support for the uprising in the occupied territories. However, it is also necessary to confront ideas that focus on the Egyptian regime's return to the Arab League as if it were the major objective and as if the major goal is not the uprising, continuation of support for it, and means to bolster Arab steadfastnes and confrontation against U.S.-Israeli plans of hegemony in the region.

The Egyptian regime had and still has several opportunities to return to Arab institutions, including the Arab League. The uprising in the occupied territories has provided an excellent opportunity for this regime to liberate itself from the shackles of Camp David. Had it desired, it could have made a national decision to get rid of the shackles of Camp David which are the main reason behind the Egyptian regime's nonparticipation in Arab institutions and in joint Arab action. However, the Egyptian regime did not want to do so. At a time when it made a series of concessions to Israel and the United States, we saw that this regime refused to make any concessions to the Arab nation. This is if we can consider the liberation of Egypt from the Camp David shackles as concessions by the Egyptian regime and not a return to the origin, logic, and to the pan-Arab affiliation of which Egypt was the center and focus of hopes with all its militant history, heritage, sacrifices of its sons, and its strategic view of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

If the Egyptian regime actually seeks to return to the Arab League's institutions, then it can return as an Arab country that has its duties and rights within the framework of commitment to the fateful Arab issues. It cannot return as a party to Camp David that seeks to peddle the course of capitulation and to involve the region in the objectives of U.S. strategy. This strategy considers Israel's interests an essential part of these objectives and gives them top priority. If this is a condition for the Egyptian regime's return to the Arab League, then this is a logical and natural condition that is being called for by the Arab nation's masses. Foremost among these are the Egyptian masses, which expressed on several occasions their rejection of the obligations imposed by the Egyptian regime on Egypt. Through their political and military essence, these obligations constitute an insult to Egypt's military history in all the national and pan-Arab fields. This makes it necessary for the Egyptian regime to liberate itself from the shackles of Camp David as an expression of its commitment to Arab issues and its respect for Egypt's sacrifices, heritage, and Arab affiliation.

He who calls for the Egyptian regime's unconditional return to the Arab League comes up with several justifications, including Egypt's importance and its bargaining power. If we ignore intentions then we can say that Egypt is undoubtedly important. However, its importance springs from its central position in the commitment to fateful Arab issues, and not from its relations with the United States and Israel. However, regarding Egypt's bargaining power, taking into consideration that this is a new expression favored by some parties, we do not know from where Egypt can obtain this power at a time when we find that the Egyptian regime has forced Egypt into its weakest position politically, militarily, and economically. Power, be it bargaining power or not, should have its own pillars. The most important of these pillars are free will and the continuous preparation of the homeland to confront enemies. Undoubtedly, we cannot consider commitment to the plans of the United States and Israel as a source of power for the Egyptian regime unless this power is directed against the Arab nation's pan-Arab interests.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech to Nangarhar, Konarha Leaders

LD1906011088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at a meeting with elders and leaders of Nangarhar and Konarha Provinces on 17 June at Delkoshah Palace—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed leaders, elders, and ulema:

We are meeting at a very sensitive and historic time to discuss issues related to the homeland, the people, peace and security. [Words indistinct] to establish fraternity, peace, and tranquility in our dear country, Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan has always tried to do this and will continue to do so. You are well informed about our efforts. We have instilled the voice of Islam, humanity, patriotism and fraternity in the national reconciliation policy. As a result of this policy, all the necessary conditions for peace, security, fraternity, and compromise have been prepared.

Looking back over the last 18 months, the national reconciliation policy has brought practical results. The historic Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan was held. The Loya Jirgah approved the Constitution, the Republic of Afghanistan's national document. The country's president was unanimously elected. Article 2 of Afghanistan's Constitution states that all laws and regulations in Afghanistan will be based on the instructions and principles of the sacred religion of Islam. No laws or regulations can be approved that contradict Islamic instructions and principles. Our grandfathers and our fathers were Muslims. We too are Muslims, thanks be to God. God is the guardian of the sacred religion of Islam. We ask Almighty God to protect us from actions which are against His will, may He and His messenger be glorified. God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family. Oh Almighty God, we pray to You to be kind to us and accept our prayers.

In accordance with the Afghan Constitution, the Law on Elections to the Milli Shura [National Assembly] was drawn up and approved. Elections were held for the Milli Shura from (?11) to 26 Hamal [15 April] in 234 constitutencies. Elections were held for the Sena [Senate] in the [word indistinct] constitutencies. Similarily, senators were elected to take part in the general meetings of the Wolasi Jirgah [Council of Representatives] of the people. In accordance with the law, and based on a presidential decree, a number of senators were appointed too. As before, this time we did not forget our angry brothers. Fifty seats in the Wolasi Jirgah and 14 seats in the Sena have been reserved for them. Whenever it is appropriate, they can hold elections among themselves to fill those seats. At present, elected representatives and senators of the opposition are included in our parliament.

On 29 May the Milli Shura met. As you have witnessed, it is currently studying and discussing, in a free and democratic manner, the country's vital issues. The Wolasi Jirgah discussed and considered, in a free and democratic manner, the government's policy statement and the members of the coalition government, namely, the executive, led by the esteemed Dr Hasan Sharq.

As a result of the Republic of Afghanistan's leaders efforts and those of Soviet Union, the Geneva accords were signed and began to be implemented on 15 May. You, esteemed leaders and elders, of course know that in May Soviet units and companies completely withdrew from Konarha and Nangarhar Provinces and returned to their peace-loving country. At this point, their forces have withdrawn from Gardeyz, Ghazni, and Lowgar. Previously, they left 13 provinces. Therefore, there are no Soviet forces in 21 [number as heard] provinces now.

The Republic of Afghanistan has taken specific measures to implement the Geneva accords. We have implemented them honestly. Favorable conditions have been prepared for emigrant compatriots to return to the country. Demilitarized areas have been created alongside the borders. In short, we can say that all our angry brothers' demands have been accepted. There is no question left for which we do not have an appropriate reply.

You know that the Pakistani military, led by Ziaul Haq, created pretexts, and artificial obstacles during the Geneva talks. Even those topics which had no connection with the current situation in our country at all, such as the Durand line, were discussed in the talks. It is also clear to you that the extremist armed groups, particularly Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar], together with General Ziaul Haq, trample on the historic rights of the Pashtuns, turning a blind eye to these rights. They want to determine the fate of our Pashtun brothers in Pakistan's interests and to hand over historic Afghanistan, this inheritance from our fathers and forefathers, to Pakistan. This is the objective of the jihad, or so-called Islamic struggle: time and life have shown that the one who loves his country is the one who sells his country.

He says clearly that he wants to join Afghanistan with Pakistan. There should be no border, and no passports or visas, and we should make a confederation with Pakistan. Afghanistan should be another province along with Baluchistan, North-West Frontier, Sind, and Punjab Provinces. How can you elders, you sons of this country, tolerate this? I told you at the beginning that we asked the Soviet forces to come here for the protection of the territorial integrity of our country and so that these plots and intrigues would fail to dismember our country. Finally, after 10 years of war, which continued under the umbrella of Islam, [words indistinct].

We have been Muslims for 1,400 years, and we have been Afghans, according to one version, for 5,000 years or, according to another version for 9,000 years. Pakistan has not even been on the map for 40 years. The

integrity and character which a Pashtun's son allows himself, and the one who still calls himself a Pashtun would make it seem as if this 5,000-year-old country had appeared on the map only 40 years ago. We are not so dishonorable and cowardly. The blood of our forefathers still flows in our veins. We want to reveal to the entire world and all Afghans who is a nation-lover and who is a nation-seller.

Now that the Geneva agreements have been signed you may observe the progress of their implementation. Notice that the Pakistani militarists do not keep their word and their promises. As in the past, they are not honest. They have turned a blind eye to the wishes of the miserable people of Afghanistan and to the tears of the widows and orphans. They do not listen to the people of Pakistan and its political forces or the peace-loving forces of the world.

Recently the parliament of Pakistan was dissolved and federal and provincial governments were dismissed. From all these acts it can be inferred that the militarists of Pakistan and the armed extremist groups want to keep the fire of war in Afghanistan burning and continue the bloodshed. They want to turn the wishes of the peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan into ashes and to safeguard their own illegitmate interests. Now they want to disrupt the fatherland and life of the tribal areas with the help of Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] and other extremist. They are trying to disrupt the traditional liberty of the tribes and dishonor them through the use of dollars and rupees and old British tricks. There are many reasons behind this which you know well, so I do not need to go into details.

Esteemed elders, at this delicate historic moment we should consult on the following issues and we should elaborate on how peace and security can be secured in the country. You inhabitants of the tribal areas, who have always stood in the frontline in the defense of the country's freedom and safety and helped with the issues of peace and security and the independence of the country, what would you like to do now to maintain calm and security in the Republic of Afghanistan, your own country?

How would you like to consult among yourselves on the issue of how to prevent the unnecessary shedding of the blood of the sons of our dear country [words indistinct]? What do you recommend for the betterment of the border tribes' life? What do you propose to do to strengthen the existing historic relations among all tribes in Afghanistan and also between the inhabitants of upper and lower Pakhunkhwa? What should be done to frustrate the futile whims of the Pakistani militarists and the madness of the armed extremist groups? I await your views and proposals. Thank you. [applause]

Najibullah Speaks to Kabul City Party Activists

LD1806214288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] At noon today, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part in a joint session of the activists of the party and social organizations and state bodies of Kabul city which was held in Salam Khanah Palace. He spoke about the participation of the high-ranking state delegation of Afghanistan in the third UN special session on disarmament in New York and on his official friendly visit to Cuba.

According to a report by the BIA correspondent, at the begining of this session, Daud Razmyar, secretary of the Kabul City party committee, spoke briefly about the session and asked Esteemed Najibullah to make a speech. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the duties of PDPA members to implement the national reconciliation policy and ensure nationwide security in the country. He drew the attention of party activists to their great, pressing and historic duties.

The BIA correspondent reports that at the end of Esteemed Najibullah's talk a number of participants asked questions in a free and democratic climate, and Esteemed Najibullah replied to them. [passage omitted]

Sharq, La'eq Hold Talks With Tribal Elders

LD1906215288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq met this morning in his office with elders and representatives of Khugianay, Shenwari, Malmand Chinah, (Salarzay), Sapideh, (Alokozay), and tribes from Konarha and Nangarhar.

BIA reports that the tribal elders discussed problems stemming from the difficult economic and agriculture situation in the provinces, living conditions, and the general situation there. Minister of Tribal Affairs Sulayman La'eq was also present.

In response, the prime minister said the Republic of Afghanistan is aware of these problems, most of which have emanated from the war imposed on our country. The new Government of Afghanistan has set up the Ministry of Revival and Rural Development to rebuild and revive villages. This ministry's duty will be to get cooperation from local people in cleaning canals, wells, and underground irrigation systems, and to help ministry officials to revive these systems, canals, and wells.

The prime minister added that the government can get international assistance to repair the damage done in the war once peace returns. The maintenance of peace and calm is considered our first and most important task. You, elders and leaders, should not spare your cooperation with the government in securing peace and the return of refugees.

At the end of the meeting, Mawlawi Mahbub Elahi spoke on behalf of the people of Nangarhar; Haji Fazlor Rahman, on behalf of the people of Konarha; and elders

from other tribes spoke on behalf of there tribes, congratulating Mr. M.H. Sharq on his appointment as Afghan prime minister. They expressed their readiness to cooperate in all areas in order to achieve success in implementing the national reconciliation policy and the policies of the new government.

Prime Minister Attends Senate Session 19 Jun
LD2006050388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, took part in a session of the Sena [Senate] to present his domestic and foreign policy and introduce the members of his government. The session was chaired by Dr Mahmud Habibi, president of the Sena, at the Milli Shura [National Assembly] headquarters.

The president of the Sena opened the session and, briefly addressing the members of the senate, said: Esteemed Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, after obtaining a vote of confidence and ratification by the presidency of Afghanistan, today, in accordance with Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, is taking part in the Sena session to present his domestic and foreign policy and to introduce his cabinet.

The BIA correspondent reports that the prime minister and members of the government then took part in the Sena session. The session was opened with the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran. The Sena president then requested Dr Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan to present the foreign and domestic policy of his government to the Sena. The BIA correspondent adds that subsequently the prime minister presented the policy of his government and introduced his cabinet members to the Sena.

At the end of the session the Sena president stated: Members of Sena of the Republic of Afghanistan have attentively heard the foreign and domestic policy of the new government and familiarized themselves with the cabinet members. We sincerely congratulate you and your colleagues on the great trust of the people of Afghanistan shown in your election as prime minister and in the members of the new cabinet. We wish you and members of the government success in implementing your progressive and humanitarian policy.

Following the laudable traditions of this land, the Sena of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the articles of the Constitution which is the most important, credible national document guiding the recent years in the sociopolitical life of the people of Afghanistan, hopes that your efforts and those of your collegues in consolidating nationwide peace, national reconciliation, and the cessation of bloodshed and fratricide will be highly successful and wishes you success in the implementing the policy of your government.

Dr Mahmud Habibi added: The Sena of the Republic of Afghanistan is at your side in this difficult but honorable task. Almighty God grant success to all of you and to us.

The BIA correspondent adds that today's Sena session ended with a few verses from the holy Koran recited by Mawlawi Abdullah Kalakani.

News Conference Held on Geneva Accords 18 Jun
LD1906104388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 18, BAKHTAR—Measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan for the realisation of the Geneva accords and preparations for receiving the refugees back home were explained to the participants of a press conference held here today.

'Abdul Ghafar Jowshan, head of the liaison office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Brigadier General Muhammad Khetab Janbaz, head of Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Defense responded to the questions raised by the correspondents of the mass media pertaining to the implementation of the Geneva package, violations from the Geneva accords by Pakistan and activities of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

It was pointed out in the conference that the Republic of Afghanistan has so far completely observed the accords. But it is the Pakistani side that violates them continuously.

It was noted in the press conference that instances of the Pakistani violations from the Geneva accords have been conveyed in separate notices to the UNGOMAP in Kabul.

Soviet POW 'Exchanged' for 7 Rebels 17 Jun
OW2006235188 Tokyo KYODO in English 1123 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 20 KYODO—The Afghan mujahidin (freedom fighters) have exchanged one Soviet prisoner for seven guerrillas, Afghan interim government president Ahmad Shah disclosed Monday.

Shah told reporters in Peshawar that those exchanged for a Soviet lieutenant included an Arab, along with well-known Afghan commander 'Abdul Bagri. The exchange took place on June 17, he said.

While the exact number of Soviet POW's being held by the Afghan resistance is not known, Soviet official figures place number of its missing troops at 311.

Soviet POW Release Lengthy, 'Delicate' Process
BK2106025788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0201 GMT 21 Jun 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, June 21 (AFP)—The release of some 200 to 300 Soviet soldiers held by the Afghan resistance is likely to be a lengthy and delicate process, diplomatic and rebel sources here say.

The fact that most of the prisoners are held by rival groups and that some have defected to the rebels while others have requested or been granted asylum in the West are the main complications, the sources said.

The difficulty of concluding a global accord for the prisoners' release was demonstrated in an agreement reached Friday in Qandahar and reported Monday by rebel sources in Quetta, in southwestern Pakistan.

In the southern province where tribal loyalties count far more than party politics, the rebels freed a Soviet lieutenant in exchange for seven guerrillas, one of them a military commander and the other a Saudi citizen.

One of the more prominent leaders of the resistance, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of the hardline fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami group, has said the issue should be discussed directly with Moscow.

The prisoners, he says, could be released after the Soviet Union completes the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan.

Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the new head of the Peshawar-based seven-party rebel alliance's rotating chairmanship, said Sunday that Moscow had not approached the mujahidin and seemed to want indirect talks.

Other resistance sources have said the Soviet Union will have to pay "material compensation" in addition to releasing resistance guerrillas it holds if it wants to see its soldiers freed.

Moscow says 311 Soviet soldiers have been listed as missing since its troops intervened here in December 1979, while other sources say there are 250 Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan .

The Soviet Red Cross has asked sister organisations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and the United States for information concerning captured soldiers, the Soviet news agency TASS said last week.

Mujahidin leaders acknowledge that they hold "a good number" of Soviet soldiers, but say several have died during Soviet-Afghan air raids on their positions.

Mr. Hikmatyar, speaking to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE last week in the northwestern Pakistan town of Peshawar, denied Soviet press reports that the prisoners were tortured.

"The Soviets have everything they want," he said, "except for vodka." But some of the prisoners are in the hands of commanders under the orders of the alliance, while others are with guerrilla leaders who either do not recognise the group, or are affiliated with the less active, eight-party Shi'ite alliance based in Iran.

Unlike regular prisoners of war or soldiers reported missing in action, the Soviet captives "are not held by a regular army, but by dozens of commanders independent from each other who are sometimes rivals and are not controlled by the seven (resistance) chiefs in Peshawar," one diplomat said. "Their liberation could take a long time," he added.

Some of the "missing" soldiers died in fighting, some fight alongside the rebels, others want asylum in the West or have died of illness, he said.

Among the few Soviet troops known to be held in the Panjsher valley controlled by Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, some have embraced the rebel cause and converted to Islam, others help the resistance without participating in the fighting, and one wants to emigrate, humanitarian sources in Peshawar said.

Several soldiers have defected in recent years to the mujahidin, most of them seeking and obtaining political asylum, notably in Canada, the United States and Britain, diplomats here report.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has said it is prepared to handle the problem of Soviet prisoners, informed sources said.

An international committee made up of U.S. and European writers, academics and journalists was recently formed in New York to obtain the liberation of Soviet prisoners.

Mujahidin leaders in Peshawar have indicated that they would like to meet representatives of the committee.

Rebel Alliance on 'Threshold of Factionalism'
LD1906103988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 18, BAKHTAR—[AGENCE-] FRANCE PRESSE from Islamabad reports that Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, one of the moderate leaders of opposition forces of Afghanistan who is in favour of conciliation with the present government of Afghanistan was elected as temporary leader and spokesman of the opposition "seven-alliance" on June 15 despite the opposition of his predecessor.

FRANCE PRESSE adds that Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar], former leader of the seven-alliance, who is among the fundamentalists and hard liners, believed that the term of his leadership with the support of Pakistani regime will be extended. But other leaders of the "coalition" severely opposed to the retaining of the post by Gulbuddin. For instance, before Gulbuddin's substitution from his post, Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani had warned that if Gulbuddin resist to stay in his post by misusing Ziaul Haq's support he will resign from the seven-alliance.

FRANCE PRESSE reports that even the leaders of fundamentalist and hardliner parties like Yunis Khalis and Rabbani have criticized Gulbuddin for his savage acts and his selfishness.

FRANCE PRESSE adds that one of the political experts has admitted that the leaders of "seven alliance" have deeply divided into two wings—moderates and fundamentalists—and are on the threshold of factionalism. Gulbuddin does not enjoy the support of opposition armed commanders inside the country and is in isolation from other groups.

The anti-national schemes by Gulbuddin on the establishment of a joint confederation with Pakistan even evoked the wrath and indignation on the part of his colleagues.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

Qandahar, Zabol, Farah Clashes

LD1606190188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that the armed forces while preventing destructive actions by extremists in Qandahar Province and restoring peace and security have killed a number of these criminals including teacher (Taj Muhammad), (Ghulam Sarwar), (Muhammad Wali), (Nasir Jan), (Mullah Nasir Haqqani), and (Muhammad Rasul) as their ringleaders. A large quantity of their weapons and ammunition including several DShKS, artillery, and light machinguns were destroyed.

According to another report from Zabol Province, a group of extremists who were trying to disrupt the life of the people of Qalat city by firing heavy weapons were recently crushed by the country's Armed Forces. The report adds as a result of this action, which took place with the people's direct cooperation, the armed groups' ringleaders called (Mangal) and (Quamuddin) were crushed, and two rocket launchers and several of their hideouts were destroyed.

Another report from Farah Province says that the armed forces, with the people's full cooperation, recently foiled a Satanic plan by extremists who were trying to disrupt the lives of the people of Sultan-e Bakwah district, Farah Province. As a result a number of extremists were crushed, and one arms cache including 30 boxes of DShK ammunition and several light machineguns was seized by the security forces.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Laghman

LD1606193588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] An armed extremist group belonging to the Etehad-e Eslami band who were harassing the people of Dorosti, (Saheb Jamal), Qal'eh-ye Malek and (Qal'eh-ye Pahlawan) villages of Laghman Province by demanding money were crushed by the country's security forces yesterday.

A correspondent for BAKHTAR's military section reports from Laghman Province that as a result of this action by the security forces, carried out at the request of the inhabitants, (?6) of these criminals were crushed and 12 were seriously wounded. A rocket launcher, four Kalashnikovs, and a large amount of ammunition were seized by the security forces.

2 Killed in Rebel Infighting

LD1706142988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Internal differences between the extremist groups concerning the distribution of plundered property from the people, have recently intensified, causing bloody clashes among them.

The BAKHTAR military office reported that as a result of bloody clashes and the exchange of fire between members of the Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] band concerning the distribution of plundered property, 2 men were recently killed and another 22 were seriously injured in the surroundings of Nejrab and Golestan districts of Kapisa Province.

Rebels in Nangarhar Defeated

LD1606190788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] An armed group of extremists who intended to attack (Gaziabad) farm, Nader Shaw Kowt subdistrict, Nangarhar Province, and plunder its produce, were crushed yesterday by the provincial security forces.

According to a report from the BAKHTAR military section, as a result of the Nangarhar security force's timely action, 12 armed extremists were crushed and 4 wounded.

According to another report, two extremists were killed while placing mines in Robat district, Nangarhar Province. The report adds that a mine exploded before the extremists had placed it, killing the two and seriously wounding another.

Missile Launcher Seized

LD1806173888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] A unit used for launching Stinger surface-to-air missiles, which are made in the United States, along with a large number of weapons and ammunition have recently been seized by the border forces. The captured materiel was brought to Herat Province by extremist groups in order to disrupt the people's peaceful life.

BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that during the border unit's activities, one of the convoy's guards was crushed and another two were arrested.

As a result of this activity, 3 rocket launchers, 1,400 rockets, 3 heavy machineguns, 4 light machineguns, tens of hand grenades, and a large number of ammunition for light weapons were also seized.

Rebels in Takhar Defeated

LD1906165688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] As a result of the activities of the security forces, the village of (Talak) in (Qal'eh-ye Dasht) area of Khwaja Ghar in Takhar district has been cleansed of the extremists who were disrupting the normal life of the people of the area.

The BIA's military section reports that (Karim), alias (Sharif), was captured along with four other members of his band during the operation, and two extremists were killed. Five weapons were also captured by the security forces.

According to another report, 14 extremists were killed and 1 rocket launcher with 10 rockets and 20 recoilless gun shells were captured by the security forces in the Gorbaz area of (Taloqan), capital city of Takhar.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Nangarhar

LD1906193888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] A reporter of BIA's military section reports from Nangarhar that recently an extremist group which wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Sorkh Rud district, has been crushed in (Barkoran) area of Towr Ghar. Four extremists, including their leader (Gola Jan), were killed with the cooperation of the peace-loving people of the district and 30 [words indistinct] shells, 80 ground-to-ground rockets, one DShK machinegun, 4 rocket launchers, 2-80mm (?guns) and 2 mortars were destroyed.

Rebels in Zabol Defeated

LD1906202388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] An extremist group armed with heavy weapons, which intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people at the suburbs of Qalat city, Zabol Province, was crushed today by th country's armed forces with the complete cooperation of the local people. A BIA military correspondent reports from Qalat city that as a result of the operation, 25 extremists were crushed and 4 weapons and ammunition caches, 4 DShKs and 2 foodstuff and clothing depots belonging to them were destroyed.

22 Soldiers Killed in Zabol

BK2006154688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Reports from Afghanistan say that after fierce fighting with the Kabul regime forces the mujahidin have captured 11 security posts in Golbahar of Parvan Province. A large number of Kabul regime forces were either killed or injured during the operation. The mujahidin also captured a large amount of arms and ammunition.

The mujahidin claimed to have captured the subdivisional town of Shahr-e Safa in Zabol Province. In the clashes, 22 soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed, and 14 soldiers were captured. Agency reports said that fierce fighting is still continuing in the Qandahar region. [passage omitted]

20 Killed in Rebel Fighting

LD2006221088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] A BIA military correspondent reports that in armed clashes between extremist group members at Nahrin district and (Dahan-e Ghowri) subdistrict of Baghlan Province, 20 extremists were killed and dozens were severely wounded.

Rebels Down Soviet Cargo Plane

LD2006163488 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 20, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries downed a cargo plane of the joint Soviet-Kabul forces over Khowst governorate, Paktia Province.

The plane was to land at Khowst airport, southeast Afghanistan, when it was attacked and downed by mujahidin's anti-aircraft fire. All the crew members of the plane were killed.

Mujahidin also destroyed a number of communist military posts in the course of a series of operations in Khowst governorate during the last week.

According to another report, Afghan mujahidin attacked and seized a troop concentration site of the joint forces in Ghowr Province last week.

In the course of the said operations, the field commander (Muhammad Amir Bayk) and a number of communist troops were killed, and a considerable amount of weaponry and munitions seized by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

Sayyaf on Soviet Withdrawal, Mujahidin Strategy

PM1606084988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
12 Jun 88 p 2

[Report on interview with Shaykh 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, Etehad-e Eslami leader, by Jamal Khashuqji in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With the daily rocket shelling of the Afghan capital, Kabul, the Afghan mujahidin have begun to move toward imposing a siege on Kabul similar to that imposed on Khowst and Qandahar and other main Afghan towns in preparation to capture the city. Shaykh 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Etehad-e Eslami and a key leader in the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed him at his residence in one of the camps spread around the Pakistani town of Peshawar. Shaykh Sayyaf said that Kabul will fall before the year is out, God willing. [passage omitted]

I asked the shaykh whether the Soviets and the government forces intended to win over the mujahidin and then pounce on them. He said: The mujahidin are inside Afghanistan. There are no regular organizations. There are interlinked combat and confrontation points. What is happening now is merely a change of positions in order to liberate new towns. That is why the theory of winning some over is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

On the political situation Shaykh Sayyaf says: We know there are schemes and plots being hatched by various parties to destroy the jihad, and we do not expect any good to come from the recent meeting between the infidel forces, Reagan and Gorbachev, since each has his own reasons to be hostile toward the Islamic jihad. The Muslims who know what is being hatched are not furnishing us with information, but we are relying on God. As God Almighty granted us victory in the battlefield, He will grant us victory in the political field.

Shaykh Sayyaf refuted what was published recently in the name of Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, an Afghan leader, that the mujahidin had agreed not to attack the withdrawing Soviet forces. He said: The mujahidin have committed themselves to the opposite. We want to inflict heavier losses on them, since they neither recognized us nor held talks with us before preparing the Geneva agreements. We are not committed to any of the agreements clauses, and if they want to leave safely, let them officially request this.

Shaykh Sayyaf pointed out that the mujahidin government will assume the task of political work, administer the liberated areas, and look after refugees' affairs. The administration of the Army and its establishments will gradually be transferred to it. He also said he will announce shortly the formation of a nucleus of the army, which will be called the Islamic army. [passage omitted]

The shaykh said: The provisional government in Afghanistan will supervise free elections to form a consultative assembly, which will choose the government. There have been differences in viewpoints, but rumors about severe disputes among the mujahidin are untrue.

Shaykh Sayyaf rejects the continuation of parties under an Islamic state and believes that this would sow and deepen differences and justify competition over power. "In fact I feel that this is not allowed religiously, and, as an alternative, a body can be formed within the framework of the government to assume the task of guidance, assessment, and questioning, provided that the people are given the freedom to do that as well." [passage omitted]

Ahmad Shah on Mujahidin Government Policy

JN1806185388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 16 Jun 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Peshawar, AL-ITTIHAD—Ahmed Shah, prime minister of the Afghan mujahidin government, says he expects to announce the names of the ministers who are to take over power in liberated areaas early next week. Ahmed Shah told AL-ITTIHAD that consulations among the mujahidin leaderships have produced a distribution of the portfolios and agreement on the names of the ministers. He added: The government will initially comprise 12 ministers only and they will begin running the affairs of the liberated areas. Barring new circumstances, their names should be out in a matter of days, in which case the announcement on a new government would be put off until after the general elections which the mujahidin alliance agreed to call withing the coming 4 months.

Afghan sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the announcement on a new government faces certain obstacles. These sources added that some alliance leaders are insisting on pro-Western elements being represented in the government, namely a representative of [former] King Zahir Shah, something other alliance leaders oppose, including Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Muhammad Yunis Khalis, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, Jalaluddin Rabbani, and Eng Ahmad Shah himself.

As the mujahidin prepare to announce their first government, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, has declared that since the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal on 15 May, the mujahidin have controlled more than 27 cities and 13 military postions where they are now doing all they can to organize administrations in advance of announcing the government lineup.

Meanwhile, yesterday marked the end of the 3 months during which Hikmatyar was spokesman for the mujahidin alliance. He was succeeded by Ahmad Gaylani, head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, known for its pro-Western tendencies.

India

Punjab State Declared 'Disturbed Area'

BK2006124788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The whole of Punjab has been declared as disturbed area under the Armed Forces Punjab and Chandigarh Special Powers Act. A notification to this effect was issued by the state government today. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the order will remain in force for 6 months from the 24th [as heard] of this month.

Meanwhile, agency reports say a hardcore terrorist, Sukhdev Singh, was killed in an encounter with security forces near the Sherpur (?bypass) in Ludhiana District last night. The chief of the district police told newsmen that the raid was conducted on a house in which the terrorist was hiding after getting a tip-off.

Special Powers Act Invoked

BK2006160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The order declaring whole of Punjab as disturbed area has been further extended for 6 months beginning next Friday [24 June]. The notification to this effect has been issued under the Armed Forces Punjab and Chandigarh Special Powers Act of 1983.

'Terrorists' Kill 6 in Haryana, 1 in Punjab

BK2106031088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Terrorists gunned down six persons at Pehua in the Kurukshetra District of Haryana last night. Three to four car-borne terrorists, who struck at a cinema hall with automatic weapons, also injured 15 people. Later they are reported to have driven toward Ambala.

In Punjab, a caretaker of a religious place was shot dead and his assistant injured by terrorists at village Khedi in Patiala District last night. The three terrorists struck when the victims were sleeping.

Gandhi Sees 'Some Progress' Made in LTTE Talks

BK1806171188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Madras, India, June 18 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi acknowledged publicly for the first time Saturday that India was holding secret talks with the dominant Tamil group in Sri Lanka, and said "some progress" had been made.

"Some progress has been made but it is premature to talk about (it)," Mr. Gandhi said without elaborating further during a visit to southern Tamil Nadu State.

Press reports have said that the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence arm, had negotiated a ceasefire with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Mr. Gandhi, according to the reports, was to have announced the ceasefire during his tour of Tamil Nadu.

LTTE sources in the Tamil Nadu capital Madras, said Thursday they had reached a tentative agreement with the Indian Government.

Sathasivan Krishnakumar alias Kittu, former LTTE guerrilla commander of Jaffna, led the Tigers at the talks which were held with the clearance of the rebels' supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, the sources said.

An LTTE spokesman here said Thursday that the Tigers, who are fighting Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka under a July Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord, had agreed to lay down their arms, help implement the peace pact, hold unconditional talks with New Delhi and enter the island's political mainstream.

New Delhi has some 52,000 troops in Sri Lanka to help implement the July 29 accord, aimed at ending the Tamil separatist conflict.

Indian troops launched an offensive in October against the LTTE after it repudiated the accord and refused to surrender its weapons. Some 478 Indian soldiers and 2,000 suspected rebels have died in the fighting.

Tamil sources here blamed Colombo for delaying the ceasefire by not announcing the merger of Tamil-dominated Northern and mixed-race Eastern Provinces as provided for in the July pact. Informed sources said the proclamation was expected Sunday.

Gandhi Wants Party Strengthened After Polls

BK2006163088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has indicated that steps will be taken to strengthen the Congress-I Party in the wake of its performance in the recent by-elections in some states. In an informal chat with newsmen at Bangalore

today, Mr Gandhi described the poll results as mixed. He said the party could have done better, particularly in Gujarat and in Uttar Pradesh to some extent. In some other states the Congress-I has done better.

Mr Gandhi said if we look at the past 1 year with controversies, drought, and economic problems, the party has done well in the elections. Asked whether there is any move for changes in the states where the party has suffered a setback, Mr Gandhi said he is not thinking of any specific changes. However, he added, we need to look at the organization for strengthening it. He would talk to party leaders from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in the next few days in this regard. By this weekend the leaders will meet to work out at the steps that need to be taken for strengthening of the party. [passage omitted]

Delhi Spokesman Denies Charges Against IPKF
BK2006160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a large number of LTTE men has been apprehended in the northern and the eastern parts of the island. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them. A PKF spokesman told our correspondent S. Sudarshanam that operations are continuing successfully in the LTTE's strongholds. The spokesman said that the "Checkmate Operation" is proceeding as planned. He said the LTTE morale is sinking to its lowest ebb.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the PKF has operated in Sri Lanka with utmost restraint and used the minimum possible force to avoid civilian casualties to the extent possible. As a result of these precautions the PKF had suffered extraordinarily heavy casualties, a sacrifice which only a highly disciplined force is capable of.

Asked to comment of the Amnesty International report on alleged violation of human rights by the PKF, which it is understood is being released, the spokesman said that charges of criminal assault and brutality made against the PKF are fabricated and unfair. He said every specific complaint received from any source about the behavior of the PKF troops has been investigated. Most of these charges had been found to be baseless. The spokesman added wherever such charges had been proved, quick and salutary [as heard] action had been taken against the guilty.

Air Marshal Mehra Appointed New Air Staff Chief
BK2006163488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Air Marshal S.K. Mehra will be the new chief of air staff. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal D.A. Fontaine, who retires on the 31st of next month. Air Marshal Mehra is presently the air officer commanding in chief, Southwestern Air Command. Air Marshal Mehra was commissioned as a fighter pilot in 1951. He was awarded the Vayusena Medal in 1971, the Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 1976, and the Param Vishist Seva Medal last year for rendering distinguished service of the most exceptional order.

Iran

Imam Khomeyni Discusses 'Issues' With Montazeri
LD2106104988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The Grand Ayatollah Montazeri this morning met with Imam Khomeyni and discussed various national issues with him.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's House Reportedly Attacked
NC2006174088 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Experts on Iranian affairs say that even if Khomeyni is not dead, most of the signs in Jamaran [Khomeyni's Tehran residence] indicate that things are not normal. Telephone contact with the outside world has been cut off; guards have been stationed in sensitive areas of Tehran; and a hasty and (?cryptic) denial by the Islamic Republic's Embassies in Paris and London indicates a strange sort of crisis which has cast a shadow on the Islamic regime's (?administrative) machinery.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that a group has attacked the residence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, and that some of them were killed or wounded during the attack.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been accused by his political rivals of treachery against the revolution and collusion with U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies. A few days after he assumed the position of commander in chief, Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a considerable military setback. The incidents that have taken place over the past few hours on the strategic Mehran Heights clearly show that IRGC's wall of defense in the operational areas has fallen to the ground in an unprecedented manner. [passage omitted]

Karrubi Tells UK 'To Shun Complicity' With U.S.
LD2006174888 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Vice-speaker of the Islamic Republic Majlis (parliament) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi called on Britain to shun complicity with Washington's hostile policies against the Islamic Revolution.

Hoj. Karrubi made the remarks in a meeting here Monday with the visiting British parliamentary delegation.

Karrubi adverting to the start of the Iraqi regime's aggression against Islamic Iran on 22 September 1980 asked Britain to brand the Ba'thist regime as 'aggressor' and also take an impartial stance vis-a-vis the imposed war.

Terming as 'positive' the British Government's and Parliament's condemning of the Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical weapons he said "this act can influence the outlook of the Islamic Republic officials and people towards Britain."

In response, the British parliamentarians referring to the significance of Iran-Britain relations called for betterment of mutual ties.

The British delegation comprising of Thomas Clarke of the Labour Party, Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks of the ruling Conservative Party and Lord Tordoff of the Social Liberal Democrats arrived here Monday morning, on their own request.

The delegation expressed hope the visit could be an important step in the promotion of bilateral relations.

Karrubi, Jamarani Discuss Hajj Boycott
NC1606211088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1617 GMT 16 Jun 88

["Weekly Political Roundtable" with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative to the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Emami-Jamarani, supervisor of the Hajj, Religious Bequests, and Endowments Organization, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers and sisters, greetings to you and to our dear viewers. I pray for your success and victory. As you are aware, we are gradually nearing the time for the political-ideological rituals of the hajj. In view of the events that have taken place since last year regarding the hajj, our compatriots do not know for certain whether or not Iranian pilgrims will be able to go to Mecca. It is for this purpose that this week's roundtable on Network Two will cover the subject of the hajj. We have invited two dear brothers to participate in this program, and I wish to introduce them to you. They are our brother Mr Mehdi Karrubi, representative of his eminence the imam to the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, and our other brother, Mr Mehdi Emami-Jamarani, the supervisor of the Hajj, Religious Bequests and Endowments Organization. I welcome you dear brothers to this roundtable, and now I wish to ask Mr Karrubi the first question.

Some months ago on this roundtable program Mr Khatami, minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance, had given the regime ruling Hijaz a grace period of 10 days in order to allow the dispatch of Iranian pilgrims to the holy Mecca. The regime ruling Hijaz agreed that 150,000 Iranian pilgrims would have the honor of going to holy Mecca. Following this announcement, the Hijaz regime said it would accept only 45,000, not 150,000 Iranian pilgrims. What we can deduce from this change is that there has been a split in [Saudi] Arabian foreign policy. Could you please tell our viewers the reason for this, as they are anxious to know whether or not Iranian pilgrims will be permitted the honor of visiting Mecca this year?

[Karrubi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For some years more than 150,000 Iranian pilgrims have gone on hajj. Everyone is aware that over the past 3 or 4 years we have registered the names of more than 1 million pilgrims. However, only a small number have received permission while large numbers have not yet been given the chance [to go on pilgrimage]. Our country has (?mostly) Muslims, that is, except for a small minority we are all Muslims. In any case, because of the talks we were holding with the Al Sa'ud regime, and because of the people who can afford to go and those who were awaiting their turn, many did not preregister but instead were waiting eagerly for an announcement that they might register. We stated we would bring more than 150,000-160,000 pilgrims, and that the number might even reach 200,000. They promised to provide greater facilities in future. In short, they knew how many pilgrims had requested permission to go, were aware of the facilities needed, and of the people who could afford the honor of the hajj. All the preliminary preparations had been completed.

Following these events and the utterances of Mr Khatami, the esteemed minister of culture and Islamic guidance, along with the information gleaned through the visits of a Syrian official regarding the issue of Iran, Hijaz and the incidents that occured in the past, once again the Al Sa'ud regime stated in their talks and messages that the number of Iranian pilgrims was acceptable. Prior to their acceptance of our delegation and even afterward, we had agreed upon the minimum number of 150,000 in our meetings and talks with the great imam. It was under such circumstances that they agreed to receive our delegation for talks.

When the supervisor and his delegation left for the talks, the Al Sa'ud regime announced that they would not accept more than 150,000 Iranian pilgrims. In short, the gist of the matter is that numbers were not their main consideration. The main issue was the demonstrations, the marches, the political activities, the shouting of "Death to Israel and the United States." This is the reason for their pressure and for trying to prevent us from attending the hajj. It also explained the reason behind their behavior last year. Indeed, we have now been prevented from going on pilgrimage, and it is because of their obstructionism and the difficulties they created that our delegation could not prepare the necessary lodgings. The Saudis were not prepared to accept

150,000 pilgrims in any case, or to permit the marches. In light of all these circumstances, it appears that we have been prevented from the hajj and the hajj will not take place.

[Afshar] In view of the short time left, is it your esteemed opinion that the Iranian pilgrims will not have the honor of performing the pilgrimage?

[Karrubi] Yes, it appears so. You know that—and I am speaking offhand, if I remember correctly—today is the last day of the month of Shawwal [lunar month] and the month of Dhul Qadah begins tomorrow. The Hijaz is 1 day ahead of us, therefore flights to Saudi Arabia would have begun in the next few days. You are aware of the many preparations for the hajj, particularly when 150,000 persons are to depart. Even if we were to go from Mashhad, it requires a great deal of planning so that we can take 150,000 persons to Hijaz. Of course, all the preparations at this end have been completed. The hajj organizations have completed all the proper arrangements, but there still remains arrangements pertaining to the other end. As we are well aware, due to the Saudis' obstructionism, nothing has been done at that end.

[Afshar] Mr Emami-Jamarani. In the course of the history of the hajj, is there a precedent for a situation in which pilgrims have been deterred from the honor of visiting holy Mecca, or is this the first time?

[Emami-Jamarani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I have neither seen nor heard before now that the powers ruling Hijaz have prevented pilgrims from making theair pilgrimage. This issue seems to be a return to the era of the infidels' paganism. In the holy Koran, wherever there is a mention of a blocking of the path to God and the path to the holy mosque, the term "infidel" is used. There is a verse which states that anyone who blocks the path to God and to the holy mosque will be immediately called an infidel. This means that only those who are guilty of blocking the sacred sanctuaries are infidels and heretics, and this act is typical of infidels and heretics. Therefore, this is an act of shame that no government, no power ruling Hijaz would ever accept. This folly has only been committed by the Al Sa'ud regime, and they are even proud of their actions. They have now pitted themselves against Islam, against Muslims, and the holy Koran.

We saw during the times of the lord of the martyrs, peace be upon him, that Imam Husayn came out of Mecca so that he would not be murdered in the sacred precincts. No one had openly tried to prevent him from performing the pilgrimage even then. This is the first time that we see this action being carried out by the Al Sa'ud regime, based on the orders of the United States.

[Afshar] Thank you. Mr Karrubi, following the obstructionism by the regime ruling Hijaz on the dispatch of pilgrims and the issue of the hajj in general, our officials proposed that the administration of the holy mosques be carried out by representatives of the various Islamic countries. The Hijaz regime rejected this proposal. Could you tell us whether or not our claim, that is, the Islamic Republic of Iran's claim, has an ideological basis? Is it based on traditions and Koranic verses, or does it have only a political bias, or both? And is the rejection of this proposal by the Hijaz regime political or ideological?

[Karrubi] I wish to say that before our officials could respond to this incident, this bloody catastrophe, the Islamic scholars in Iran, the ulema, and the experts including His Eminence Montazeri repeatedly stressed this matter, and that it was often mentioned in the world of Islam that the holy mosques are for all the Muslims and that it is only natural for the thinkers of the world of Islam to collectively administer them. This issue was raised by Islamic scholars and thinkers, and not professional political personalities. Islamic experts and elders have propounded this opinion, which has an ideological basis.

I remind you that the first Saudi ruler, who wished to topple the (?previous rulers), said that the two holy mosques should be administered by all Muslims and should not be exclusively in the (?control) of one government. Now, however, it is in the hands of a government that is being manipulated by Satanic powers such as the United States, and is trying to prevent the Muslims from going on the hajj or is clashing with them just because they say "Death to Israel" and "Death to the United States." It has been heard this year that the collective clergy of the infidels, in cooperation with the Zionists, as well as the government of Jordan, have threatened the Palestinians against protesting, saying they will be prevented from the hajj if they continue to do so. This is what is being done. Therefore, the issue is one of force as well as politics. It is absolutely wrong and reactionary and benefits the enemies of Islam.

[Afshar] This means, Mr Karrubi, that the issue proves the incompetence of the Hijaz regime to administer the holy mosques, which was affirmed by its massacre of about 400 pilgrims to the house of God. This issue once again raises the question of the need for a council or panel of representatives from the Islamic countries to administer the two holy mosques. Who should comprise such a panel or council? How many people should be on the panel and who should they be? Has this been specified or has anything been done this regard?

[Karrubi] I have no information as to who or how many people should be on the panel. What is clear is that they should be from the world of Islam in general—perceptive, honorable, and independent individuals or a group. This issue has been pursued in political and scholarly circles, and should be further discussed. The imam, in his condolence message, also drew the attention of the thinkers of the world of Islam to seek a solution to the

issue of the liberation and administration of the holy mosques. This issue should be followed up, with the details of its modus operandi decided by the Muslims in the future.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Emami-Jamarani. At the Amman summit conference, a proposal was made and approved to reduce the number of pilgrims from all Islamic countries participating in the hajj. However, in practice, as far as I know, there has been no reduction in the number of Turkish pilgrims. What is Iran's actual position on this matter, and are there other countries whose number of pilgrims has not been reduced?

[Emami-Jamarani] As far as the number of pilgrims is concerned, I can confirm what our respected brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi has mentioned. Since 1985, when we went to the Hijaz for the first round of talks, they gave us a definite promise, and this is recorded in our talks with the Saudis. The fact is that from the beginning we spoke about the number of our pilgrims. The fact is that we have 1 million or so people waiting for their turn. If we send 150,000 people on the hajj annually, this will mean that it will take years for everyone's turn to come up. Meanwhile, the people are also anxiously waiting to visit the house of God. All of them are waiting for fresh rounds of registration so that they can take their turn.

Based on this estimate, we insisted that we should send more than 150,000 pilgrims. These officials stated in writing that we should give them 2 years to implement this arrangement. As those who have been on the hajj the past 2 years know, the demolition of the area surrounding the prophet's mosque where Bani Hashim Street is located, as well as the bazaars of the eastern section of the prophet's mosque up to Baqi' was a major issue in 1985. Demolition work was taking place throughout this area, which was truly in bad shape because of all the dust. No worshipper could pray there without his clothes getting dusty. Later, work was carried out night and day in order to complete the demolition as quickly as possible.

These people asked us to give them 2 years and assured us that we would be able to bring 200,000 pilgrims in 1987. We have this in writing in our agreement. In 1987, they insisted they were still involved in construction projects. They said the demolition work had been completed and that there would be no problems in accommodating all the pilgrims in the existing housing. However, they still asked us to give them some more time and to send only 150,000 pilgrims. We agreed in the hope that we would be able to send more than 150,000 in 1988, according to their written promises. Following the catastrophe that had taken place, we should not have even entered into discussions with them, on principle.

However, in order to affirm our wholehearted intention to show the sincerity of the Islamic Republic despite all the oppression inflicted upon it by circles throughout the world, we said that our love, our spirit, and our thoughts all are focused on Mecca and Al-Madinah. Despite all this oppression, we cannot give up the hajj, otherwise, we would have decided immeditately upon our return not to attend. However, as before, we (?enthusiastically) followed up the arrangements we had made for the hajj. Our officials and clergy, and the supervisors of the caravans were all assigned their work. We believed the condition of our pilgrims' accommodations would be improved, according to the previous contracts. There were no problems so far as the preliminary issues were concerned.

Recently, the caravans had hoisted their flags and the names had been written. Each pilgrim knew the number of his caravan, which cleric was in charge, and some had received training. This is the way we planned for the hajj. Our method of implementation had been organized in this manner. Before we left for talks in Jeddah, the mass media had disseminated the imam's views. We had declared earlier, through our esteemed charge d'affaires in Jeddah and in Riyadh, that we would send 150,000 pilgrims, not one less, in accordance with the instructions of the imam. The imam's view is the view of the whole Iranian nation. The Iranian nation wants more people to go, not less. So, we requested that 150,000 pilgrims be allowed to go, along with our own political rituals, which would take place as they had before.

These people answered our charge d'affaires by saying: This is not a prime or previous condition. Tell the delegation to come. They welcomed the delegation, which we took to mean that they had accepted the number 150,000, and all other matters; namely, the fact that the political rituals should take place, as this was our first condition, as it had been in the past as well. We received their message to go and discuss the matter, which we did. During the discussions it appeared that they had a conciliatory attitude.

There seemed to be a difference of opinion, views, and attitudes among the Hijaz government's officials. These officials themselves seemed not to know what course of action to take. They had given us their word that we would be permitted to bring 150,000 persons and to perform our marches and political rituals, which was our primary condition. Later we discovered that the minister himself did not have any opinion in this regard and said that he would have to discuss the matter with other authorities. He left to hold discussions with other officials before returning at night. The minister informed us we would be permitted to send only 45,000 pilgrims.

Of course, this number contradicts what has been allowed for Turkish pilgrims, whose numbers they have increased. Malaysia also has been allowed to exceed this limit. They tell us that 1,000 persons are being permitted for every 1 million. We have seen that what was approved at the Amman summit has been violated with regard to many countries. Some countries have been permitted to send more than ,1,000 persons per 1 million

of the population. A large number of Malaysian pilgrims are now going to the hajj. The fact is that numbers do not matter to them. I believe that had we said we would have nothing to do with the political rituals of the hajj and would have behaved like all the others—not all, as there were other pilgrims who had participated in our disavowal marches, which are part of the popular rituals of the hajj and of Muslims—and would have acted like those who wish to be servile to the Saudi regime and performed an American-style hajj, they definitely would have agreed to receive 300,000 of our pilgrims.

However, they said only 45,000 pilgrims. Some of our Iranian brothers had suggested that we agree to take 45,000 but stage marches and demonstrations and declare our opinions anyway. I must state clearly that they specified 45,000 for the following reason: that they should not be considered as flouting the holy verses and injunctions, nor be considered guilty of apostasy and of being infidels. They would be able to say they had told the Iranian Muslims to come to participate in the hajj. They are saying 45,000 first and foremost because they know that neither the imam nor the nation would accept this number. The Iranian nation will not participate in the hajj if less than 150,000 pilgrims are permitted to go. They know this themselves. The imam's position was taken before our trip to Jeddah and the imam clearly stated that it would be 150,000, not one person less.

Hence, they knew that we would not agree to less than 150,000 and we would not go to the hajj. They informed us that we could bring 45,000 pilgrims. What kind of people do they want? They want 45,000 prisoners who are low and abject persons who should not even breathe and should be absolutely bereft of all political acumen. They should not say or do anything. I will disclose an example of what had happened to us. Following our talks, an official Iranian delegation went there at their invitation. When we had returned to the government lounge at the airport following our unfruitful talks, they came and stopped us.

The proper conduct toward visiting political personalities or official delegations is known the world over. They detained us and in front of the police and their people, they brought a detector and frisked my clothes. They then tried to remove my turban, perhaps thinking that I might be concealing something which I had taken from them. One of the persons present stopped them and escorted us to the lounge. They used detectors and other similar equipment to check the clothing of all the members of the delegation. They showed me a little respect as I was the head of the delegation, but they humiliated us in general. If it had been a personal visit, I would have said nothing, except that it concerned me only.

However, I wish to state that the Saudis say that 45,000 Iranians are free to come to Mecca; this is how they wish to treat 45,000 revolutionary Iranians. Last year we were with Mr Karrubi when we heard that for 18 and 1/2 hours, in a temperature of 50 degrees centigrade, our aged pilgrims had been detained at the entrance to Al-Madinah. Old men and women were forced to stay inside a closed vehicle, not allowed to open the windows or use the air conditioning. The driver was an Arab who took orders from the police. The bus was detained for 18 and 1/2 hours. One old woman died and no one was permitted to leave the bus.

Hence, the problem is not one of numbers for these people, whether 150,000 more or less. There is no question of accommodation. The desire of the landlords of Mecca and Al-Madinah is that Iranians should lease their properties. They had pleaded that our delegation discard all (?bureaucracy) and rent their houses directly from them, without any middlemen. There is plenty of accommodation, all the rest is merely an excuse. The Amman summit was also a pretext to condemn us. Of course, when the summit took place we were condemned; the Saudi regime was not condemned. They all get their instructions from one source.

In any case, the issue of numbers is immaterial. The problems lie elsewhere and are political. I will not elaborate further on your question.

[Afshar] Thank you very much.

[Karrubi] I am taking advantage of what Mr Emami-Jamarani has explained so well in detail to mention one or two points. I wish to affirm that the issue of numbers was not important and was a mere pretext, as he said. Second, as you observed and Mr Emami-Jamarani confirmed, they have contradicted themselves and are permitting greater numbers of pilgrims or at least the same number as last year. The other point is that there are countries which have a high population but a (?smaller) number of Muslims or no pilgrims. The hajj is based on the ability to afford the trip. For example, how many Muslims can there be in China or India? How many Muslims are there?

Even 1,000 of 1 million cannot afford to perform the hajj, and they do not come. In any case, it depends on the conditions in the country. For example, how many Muslims are in the Soviet Union and the PRC, and how many come? This is one point. The other point is that the Amman conference has made these decisions, people like King Husayn and Husni Mubarak. Should an Islamic religious obligation—which is compulsory—be decided by the Koran, the sunnah [traditions of the prophet], Islamic jurisprudence, and the ulema, or by these pawns of colonialism and the bonded slaves of the United States? This is a matter of utter shame and humiliation.

The other point is that they say that of every million persons 1,000 should go. Suppose what they say is true and they act upon it. As I said (?earlier), this in itself is proof of their incompetence. When they cannot provide the facilities for a million Muslims who can afford to

perform the hajj, and they cannot cope with their end of the preparations, it is a sign of their incompetence. The fact is facilities there are adequate.

[Afshar] Mr Karrubi, a problem between Iran and the Hijaz is the severance of diplomatic relations between two countries nearly 8 months after the rituals of last year's hajj and the bloody Friday in Mecca in an illogical action announced by the Hijaz regime. Perhaps it was to divert public opinion or thought from the bloody Mecca incident or some other reason. If we assume it was to divert attention from the Mecca incident, we have to ask: Why 8 months later? If this was not the cause, it was for some other reason. Do you have any idea what another reason could be?

[Karrubi] Due to the nature of the question, it would be better to ask the esteemed brothers in the Foreign Ministry. Any of them would be able to answer this question appropriately. In general, it is clear there is a link with the bloody Friday in Mecca. The Saudi regime brought about that disaster. All those Muslims were martyred. They are guilty of perpetrating a major sin, a heinous crime, and should seek pardon before God and the people. Whether their penitence is accepted or not, they must ask for pardon and atone for their actions. They have prevented the hajj and should be penitent. We did not sever ties, though we have been asked why many times. Because of our religious duty, our link with the hajj, our divine obligation with the hajj, we did not sever ties. This incident is part of the chain of events connected with the United States, as is clear from the fact that the United States has created the most difficult conditions for us. There was the issue of the Persian Gulf, which you can plainly see, and you know where the orders for such things come from.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Karrubi. Mr Emami-Jamarani, it is certain that all this obstructionism on the part of the Hijaz regime is due to a fear rooted in this American-style regime of incurring the wrath of its mentors. One month ago we heard that the Hijaz regime would not issue visas to Muslims who had a record of participating in struggle, regardless of their country of origin. What do you say? Do you think the pilgrims of other countries will hold the disavowal of pagans march?

[Emami-Jamarani] As you have mentioned, we have also heard that revolutionary individuals with a record of struggle— from Islamic countries such as the dear Palestinian people, the fighting people of Egypt and Lebanon—all these people embracing revolutionary Islamic thinking have been restricted from going to the hajj. It is clear that the Al Sa'ud's problem is not just Iran; they are not struggling against Iran but against Islam, against the revolution, its progress, and its influence on Islamic societies. I remember that in years past whenever a non-Iranian came to us—and in the past few years very few have approached us—the Saudi police came immediately. For every few Saudis there is a policeman. They appeared and pulled them from our presence.

At the imam's mission in Al-Madinah we saw numerous Pakistanis, Egyptians, and Muslims from other countries who wished to become acquainted with the imam's mission. They were arrested as soon as they left the mission, as they had been reported by the police. The Saudis did not stop to think that one day all this would backfire, that all the people would join in this disavowal of pagans march. They mustered all their resources so that the march would not appear as one by Islamic countries in general. In the past few years they saw they were unable to do anything, that the matter was out of their hands. They had no recourse except to combat it as they did. They mobilized all their strength so that this march might be averted, but I do not think in the coming years the Islamic societies will perform hajj without a disavowal march, as it is part of the pilgrimage as performed by the prophet of God. Since the prophet's time all Muslims have been obligated to incorporate this disavowal march in their pilgrimage, if not they are performing a hajj different from the ones performed by Abraham [as heard] or Muhammad. God willing, the Muslim people will not leave the Al Sa'ud dynasty in peace.

[Afshar] Mr Karrubi, I have spoken with all my colleagues and discussed what we have been hearing. We have reached the conclusion that this year the Hijaz ruling regime is planning to invite some Iranian counterrevolutionaries from abroad to perform the hajj as Iranian pilgrims. If they do this I think it will be clear as to why. My question is: What is your assessment of such a measure by the Saudi Government, and, on principle, what would the Hijaz regime stand to gain from it?

[Karrubi] The despotic Hijaz regime said repeatedly during the course of talks that the hajj holds religious significance and that it has no political aspects and should not include political activity. We mentioned on numerous occasions in talks with the Hijaz officials that the political dimension should be incorporated into the hajj and also that the hajj is incomplete if the march disavowing pagans does not take place. Therefore, the political activity will take place. They are doing such things themselves and have done so earlier. In other words, they have included political actions in the hajj, but political activity in favor of the United States and Israel, not against their interests.

We have heard that some counterrevolutionary forces are being invited and all facilities have been provided and contacts made for their stay. For example, Iraq is in touch with the monafeqin [hypocrites] and other servile elements who are serving our adversary Saddam. They will be invited to represent Iranian pilgrims so it can be said that the Iranians went on the hajj. Later, a schedule of activities will be planned for them; that is, they will be interviewed and so on. All this will have no effect on the morale of the noble revolutionary Muslims who have a correct perspective and recognize these tactics. All this will be meaningless for them. These tactics have all been used before.

As you may remember, alongside our great march they stationed some people who wielded clubs and said they were also staging demonstrations. These tactics were used before and they naturally had no effect. They may indulge in wishful thinking and do what they want with groups or individuals, but the people who are noble and support our revolution are able to discriminate between these actions. All the monarchists, monafeqin, and those who fled the country have been acting in just such a way and will continue to do so, but they are easily recognized by the people. We know our friends and we know our enemies; hey can do what they wish.

[Afshar] Thank you. Mr Emami-Jamarani, the supervisors of our caravans in Mecca and Al-Madinah have some storage facilities where they store caravan property. According to my general estimate, their value is in the billions of rials. Last year after the bloody Friday incident, the Saudi police raided these warehouses. Because we do not plan to perform the hajj this year, because this property is still in those warehouses, and because the leases have to be renewed each year, there is a possibility that the Saudi police may again raid the warehouses. This would result in losses to the Iranian treasury. Have any preliminary measures been taken to ensure against this?

[Emami-Jamarani] In the houses we have leased—and there is property in them—the procedure is as follows: Every year when the caravans vacate the residential areas of these houses, whether they are in Mecca or Al-Madinah, the property is transferred into the storage areas on the premises of the same houses. We continue to pay rent for these storage areas within those houses only until the next year. Last year when the incident took place, the residential parts of the houses were vacated, and the property was stored as usual. As you have estimated, there are about 1,200 caravans which own valuable property, and their total value is really a considerable sum. All this property has been placed in storage on trust. Prior to the severance of relations we corresponded with the Saudi authorities to find a solution to this situation. Either the leases of the houses should be renewed, or the government should undertake to protect this property, we said. We are still insisting on this. The Saudi Government is dutybound to protect our property.

The property of the caravans was placed in the storage facilities which were raided. The Saudi police ransacked them in the hope of finding something of interest. When they found nothing they issued a warning, saying that the lease for these houses had expired. We asked them to permit us to renew the lease and to allow some persons to attend to these matters. If not, they should make a commitment to us that they will protect the property and be entirely responsible until, God willing, another country takes over such consultations on our behalf and takes charge of these affairs.

[Afshar] Allow me to ask you one last question. As you have seen, the bloody Mecca incident was one of the most important events of the 10 years of the life of Islamic Iran. Its significance is enhanced by the statement of the great imam that the importance of the bloody Friday incident in Mecca far exceeds that of the war. In the light of this statement we see that the cultural aspect, the propaganda aspect, of the bloody Friday incident has not been stressed in proportion to its importance. I do not mean that nothing has been done, but not enough has been done. In your opinion, why has activity in this regard been limited?

[Karrubi] As this is your last question let me first convey my thanks to you and your colleagues of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly as we are on the threshold of the hajj week and hope to view the programs your colleagues have produced.

As you mentioned, the imam has said that our nation should know that if the Saudis prevent us from performing athe hajj, they will have to face the Muslims of the world and answer them. They will have to answer in the world and in the hereafter, which will be very difficult for them. You may remember that the shah likewise committed unfortunate deeds when he was in power, but you saw the degradation and misfortune he suffered. The other point is that the issue has, of course, great dimensions and importance. The imam confronted the issue in a manner based on fact, realism, and the spirit of Islam. He said the question was not one of a massacre but of the violation of the sanctity of the holy precincts.

In Islamic Iran and in Muslim countries the people have convened various seminars, issued publications, and conducted other propaganda activities. Our hajj directorate and the Islamic Guidance Ministry and Islamic thinkers did much, but it was not enough when compared with the enormity of the incident and should be more extensive. We should all work toward this end. It is our Islamic duty, our cultural duty, to do more in this regard. Muslims in other countries who are motivated should be invited to cooperate with us. Interviews on the incident and letters we have received prove that this incident deeply affected the hearts of Muslims.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. I feel it is my duty at the end of the program to once again thank you dear brothers who participated in this roundtable. Dear viewers, I hope that the contents of this political roundtable may have proven useful for you, and along with the esteemed participants of this program, Messrs Karrubi and Emami-Jamarani, and all our colleagues in the political group of the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we say goodbye to each of you, dear viewers. May God bless you, and good night.

Reportage on Visit of DPRK Premier

Arrives in Tehran 20 Jun

LD2006111388 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Yi Kun-mo heading a 15-member high-ranking economic-political delegation arrived here on a four-day official visit Monday morning.

Premier Yi was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart Premier Hoseyn Musavi and a number of other Iranian officials and foreign diplomats in Tehran.

The delegation includes North Korean minister of foreign trade, and deputies from Prime Ministry, Foreign Ministry and Foreign Trade Ministry.

Premier Yi is scheduled to hold talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i and Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in addition to official talks with Premier Musavi. He is also to visit several Iranian factories.

In post-revolution period relations between the two countries have expanded and officials of the two countries have exchanged visits. The current visit of Premier Yi is in reply to a visit to Pyongyang five years ago by Prime Minister Musavi of Tehran.

North Korea has always condemned U.S. plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran and has deplored Iraqi aggression against Iran. President Kim Il-song of North Korea last year announced his country's opposition to imperialist plots in the Persian Gulf and interference in Iran's affairs. He said that his country will fight against imperialism in a united front with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Suggests Barter System

LD2006151788 Tehran IRNA in Englsh 1435 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Yi Kun-mo of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) who arrived here this morning said that Tehran and Pyongyang have gained new experiences in the field of reconstruction. He expressed hope that this will lay a foundation for expansion of bilateral relations.

Speaking briefly to foreign and domestic reporters Premier Yi said that two countries could meet each other's needs on the basis of barter trade. He added that while in Tehran he will discuss various subjects with Iranian officials including economic relations.

He expressed hope that his visit to Tehran will lead to productive results and noted potentials iexisted for further promotion of bilateral ties.

In response Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi also expressed hope that the visit will further strengthen mutual relations.

Premier Yi is to visit Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery this afternoon to pay tribute to martyrs of the Islamic Revolution.

First-rounud of official talks between prime ministers of the two countries is to start this afternoon.

Holds Talks With Musavi

NC2106073188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The first round of talks between the Iranian and DPRK prime ministers was held yesterday afternoon. In the 2-hour long talks the prime ministers discussed the expansion and strengthening of ties, regional issues, and international cooperation. In these talks DPRK Prime Minister Yi Kun-mo expressed his pleasure at being in Iran and noted Iran's success in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution. He said: Today the people and Government of Iran have utilized their domestic resources and, despite the fact that they are in the throes of a difficult struggle for construction and independence, have attained major success.

He added: Your active presence in the Nonaligned Movement and the Iranian people's decisive struggle against imperialism are very significant. Mr Yi condemned U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf, terming them overt aggression against the sovereignty of nations. He said: As another country poised against imperialism along a common front, we consider it our duty to firmly support the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the positive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue of the unity of two Koreas, Yi declared: Friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran has special importance for us. We will spare no effort to consolidate this friendship.

In conclusion, the DPRK prime minister stressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in industrial, economic, technical, and scientific fields, saying: The two countries can mutually benefit by cooperating in matters pertaining to oil, machinery, shipbuilding, mining, power stations, and scientific and technical fields.

During the meeting Prime Minister Musavi conveyed his greetings on the 40th year of Korean independence and expressed the hope that the visit of Mr Yi and his delegation will usher in a new phase in the consolidation of bilateral ties. Our prime minister alluded to the unity of the two Koreas, which is endorsed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to U.S. plots and aggression in Southeast Asia. He said: We are well aware of your

nation's prolonged and steadfast struggle against the United States. Commenting on the joint position of the two countries on the international scene, the prime minister termed the exchange of high-level delegations an effective step toward broadening mutual cooperation.

Noting the aggressive U.S. presence in Korea and the Persian Gulf, Mr Musavi stressed the need for greater unity between the two countries to combat the United States, asserting: In the face of frequent U.S. aggressions in the Persian Gulf and the region, we have adopted a tit-for-tat policy, which obviously must be a source of irritation to the United States and its lackeys. That is why we witness its bestial acts, such as the bloody Mecca catastrophe. Regarding the Nonaligned Movement, Mr Musavi said: In our view, the movement should return to its primary principles in order to become more effective. It should not permit regimes like the Saudi regime, which is affiliated with world oppression and is the most servile country in the region, to become members.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of expanding economic and commercial cooperation with developing countries, Mr Musavi said: We have taken many practical steps in this regard.

Musavi said that Iran has raised the level of commercial exchanges with these countries from 3 percent in the prerevolution period to 20 percent. Elsewhere in his remarks, our prime minister spoke about the security of the Persian Gulf, saying: Gulf security can be safeguarded only by regional countries, not the United States. In our opinion, real security can be established in the Gulf only if the United States' foothold in the region is removed.

He emphasized that the United States' presence is a deterrent to friendship among nations, but Iran pursues a policy of nonintervention in others' affairs and stresses friendship with neighbors. Mr Musavi reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the freedom-seeking struggles of the peoples of the world, particularly the peoples of the Middle East, South Africa, and Central America. Speaking about U.S. support for the Zionist Iraqi regime, he said: The overt support by the United States for the Iraqi regime explains the nature of the imposed war. Musavi said that in order to attain a durable peace in the region, which should be invulnerable to the superpowers, our nations should be steadfast. We will remain steadfast until we achieve our desired results, despite the vicissitudes that confront all struggles, he declared.

Velayati, Delegation Depart for Romania

NC2006055388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, left Tehran for Bucharest this morning, leading a delegation on an official 4-day visit to Romania.

During this trip Mr Velayati will hold discussions with Romanian officials on the expansion and deepening of bilateral relations, as well as on regional and international issues.

Mir Salim Heads Delegation to Berlin

LD1906140188 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i's advisor Mostafa Mir Salim heading a delegation arrived in Berlin Saturday to participate in an international conference on nuclear-free zones.

He was welcomed at the airport by deputy chairman of the German Democratic Republic's State Council Heinrich Homann. The conference will be opened in Berlin by President [as received] Erich Honecker Monday.

Housing Minister Returns From Poland

LD1906223188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Mr Kazeruni, the minister of housing and urban development, who had gone to Poland at the official invitation of his Polish counterpart, returned to Tehran Sunday. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, he discussed the results of his trip to Poland and said: This trip was planned to expand bilateral relations and coincided with the Poznan fair. We held discussions with Polish ministers of housing and commerce, and the parliament speaker, and reviewed exchanges of information and research on construction techniques, as well as supply of some parts needed for housing factories at home.

He added: The Islamic Republic presented an exhibition at the Poznan fair. Referring to his meeting with the Polish parliament speaker, Mr Kazeruni said: In this meeting the Polish parliament speaker strongly condemned Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

Commentary on U.S. Presidential Campaign

LD1806111688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. presidential elections have more or less passed through their preliminary stages. At this point direct competition between the candidates of the two parties, the Republicans and Democrats, has started in earnest in the sense that finally, after a period of several months, George Bush, Reagan's vice president and the Republican candidate, has managed to eliminate his five rivals from the scene, remaining as the only candidate of the Republicans.

In addition, of the seven democratic candidates, Michael Dukakis has been named as the Democratic candidate, having gained an adequate majority of the votes. Jesse Jackson, the Democratic senator, although unable to beat Dukakis, received a substantial number of votes. [passage omitted]

Given the changing circumstances and the interaction of various factors affecting the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections, the ultimate future of each of the two factions has not been too predictable. We will have to wait and see what develops in this respect. The issue of McFarlane's doomed trip, the U.S. budget deficit, the rise in military spending during Reagan's term of office, and the question of drugs and narcotics are among the issues that will be raised as important points against the Republicans in the election struggle. Moreover, the decline in U.S. (?military) strength and loss of Washington's authority—if the Democrats come into power—are among the issues that the Republicans are eager to discuss in line with the current situation. Thus, the way these issues will be raised and argued over, and the attendant publicity, can have important repercussions on the struggle between the two parties.

In any case, East-West relations, the recent meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev, and the expansion in (?projects) and relations between Moscow and Washington during Reagan's term of office are not issues that could become policy of the larger part of the Republicans' election campaign. This is because the latest efforts of the Reagan administration to strengthen and expand East-West relations and the extensive cooperation between Moscow and Washington are basically contrary to traditional Republican policies, and particularly contrary to Reagan's initial policy. The Democrats, on the other hand, have always sought and are seeking to preserve and expand relations with Kremlin leaders and are trying to resolve problems through negotiations, meetings, and arms agreements.

The circumstances of the past few years and the articulation of Gorbachev's policies in practice has resulted in (?endorsing) the policy lines of the Democrats and altering the traditional policies of the Republicans, although this change in policy does not mean a complete change in the viewpoint of that faction. [passage omitted]

In any case, the trend of the new circumstances has been such that it is quite likely that the trend of relations between Moscow and Washington in the future continue to move toward greater cooperation and collaboration between the two governments. This is because basically Kremlin leaders, in their new assessments of the situation, consider that the USSR's security, tranquillity, and (?ideology) are linked with Washington's sense of security. At the same time, they are doing their utmost to make up for their economic shortcomings somehow while expanding and deepening their relations.

Commentary on Afghan Mujahidin Government

LD2006142888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Station commentary: "The Announcement of the Cabinet of the Afghan Mujahidin Provisional Government"]

[Text] Yesterday, Afghanistan witnessed a new development. The names of the provisional government members of the seven-party Afghan alliance were announced by the leader of the alliance in Peshawar, Pakistan.

On the basis of the reports received, Ahmad Shah, the head of the provisional government, who was appointed to that position some time ago, announced his 14-member cabinet, including 2 deputy prime ministers and 12 ministers. In the meantime, the leader of the seven-party Afghan alliance said: Elections for the formation of a parliament will be held by the mujahidin and the refugees in the next 3-4 months, and the provisional goverment can ask that parliament for a vote of confidence.

According to political observers, that issue—receiving a vote of a confidence—will demonstrate whether or not Ahmad Shah's provisional government, which has gained greater credibility with the announcement of the 14-member cabinet, can gain the support of all Afghan groups. Concurrent with the Marxist coup d'etat in Afghanistan and the subsequent occupation of that country by Soviet forces, these groups began their relentless struggle, which still continues, to uphold the supremacy of their Islamic principles.

The same observers describe as important the prospect of elections for the parliament and the vote of confidence for the provisional government, despite the fact that 5 million Afghans live outside the country and more than half of them are fighting the Kabul regime in the trenches of jihad and behind the battlefronts.

They believe it will not only strengthen the current position of the Afghan mujahidin inside Afghanistan and test their unity of action, but it can also be effective regarding the recognition of that government by world circles and international public opinion.

The announcement of the members of the Afghan seven-party alliance's provisional government coincides with recent news reports of the brilliant new successes of the Afghan mujahidin on all of Afghanistan's internal fronts. On the basis of these reports, major urban areas, particularly in southern and southeastern Afghanistan, have come under the control of the mujahidin. It seems that this will play an important role in future political and military developments in that country and it will (?more rapidly) attain the aims of the Afghan nation's Islamic resistance.

Under conditions in which the Afghan nation's Islamic resistance is in a sensitive phase—which should result in their national sovereignty over their country—the Afghan mudahidin groups' unity of action, whether in the military or in the political dimension, is important. In reality, the coming together of the mujahidin around one axis as a symbol of the Afghan nation's resistance can foil the Kabul regime's recent ploys and the hopeless efforts of that regime's allies to keep it in power.

Commentary on Drug Smuggling, Anti-Drug Efforts

NC2006114788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "Addiction—The Invisible Weapon of Colonialism"]

[Excerpts] The mass media recently reported the arrest of a large group of international drug smugglers. The report once again turned the attention of the public and social affairs experts to smuggling, addiction, and the destructive impact of this wretched gift brought by colonialism. This was also a warning, calling for officials of the Islamic Republic to give more serious attention to uprooting the historic and cultural backgrounds of this colonialist gift.

Addiction and its spread in Islamic society topped the list of the activities of the old colonialists, who used addiction to gain a cultural influence on deprived nations. [passage omitted] However, the victory of the revolution on 11 February 1979 upset all the programs of international gangs, headed by U.S. imperialism. The revolutionary council immediately banned poppy cultivation and approved a law under which smugglers were sentenced to death. Following this, all the Muslim people of Iran were mobilized, and a headquarters was set up to fight drugs. Thanks to this headquarters' decisive actions, the largest international gangs operating in Iran were destroyed during the first years of the revolution, and hundreds of veteran smugglers were executed. This decisive and quick approach had incredible results in a very short time.

The objectives of the Islamic Revolution of Iran were never favored by the arch-criminals of the East and the West. World arrogance, which had not gained anything from the imposed war, coups, and economic boycotts, once again used the country's domestic problems to form a new counterrevolutionary front. This front was to promote the use of drugs and addiction in an effort to deprive the revolutionary people and Islamic Republic of popular support, and to deprive Iranian youths of their power to think and act. Thus, the issue of drugs in Iran became a totally political matter.

In view of the continuation of the revolutionary movement in Iran, the international gangs began their operations on the country's eastern borders and adjoining areas. Special laboratories for the manufacture of drugs were set up in those areas. The merchants of death bring these drugs into Iran from the border areas and through mountain passes. They use animals and vehicles equipped with various automatic and complicated weapons to transport the drugs through the desert area to major underground distribution centers in the cities.

World Zionism's support for the new operations by the international gangs is very clear. In 1985, the Zionists held a research and science conference aimed at finding the best way to fight Iran's Islamic Revolution. The conference advised an expansion of corruption and addiction.

The intensification of activities by the drug-smuggling bands is taking place today along the lines of such programs. With the cooperation of native and immigrant elements near the eastern borders, the merchants of death presumptuously continue their antisocial and counterrevolutionary activities. Among the ploys used by these merchants of death is the reduction of drug prices throughout the country. This shows the depth of the satanic objectives of imperialism in Iran.

In the present conditions and sensitive situation, and in view of the need to mobilize the youths as much as possible to fight the plots of world arrogance, it is necessary for the government to adopt a more serious and decisive stand toward the elements involved in the dissemination of this destructive product, which is plunging innocent children deeper and deeper into hell. The people expect the officials to carry out extensive, continual efforts in the war against drugs, greater efforts than have been exerted thus far. They must do this in order to prevent the further destruction of the revolution's moral and material capital. The alert conscience of the Muslim Iranian nation—a nation that has risen with firm determination to confront imperialism—expresses concern over the presence of such elements, and will not tolerate this situation in any way. This nation wants measures that will, with God's help, thwart this creeping cultural plot by the colonialists, just as all previous plots have been thwarted so far.

Further Reportage on Operations in Mehran Area

Journalists Visit Mehran 19 Jun

JN2006115088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Jun 88

[WAKH correspondent in Baghdad]

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (WAKH)—Observers here said that the Iranian forces have become unable to confront any military operations, particularly after the successive defeats they sustained as a result of the Iraqi forces' strikes and the operations of the opposition Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA].

The observers referred to the successful operations launched by the Iraqi forces in the northern heights to drive out the Iranian forces, as well as the INLA offensive in the central sector against the city of Mehran under the code name Al-Thurayya al-Kubra.

This is the second major offensive launched by the opposition INLA within 4 months. Forces belonging to the Iranian opposition organization Mojahedin-e Khalq had attacked the Iranian 77th Division and inflicted large losses on it.

During their visit to Mehran yesterday, eyewitnesses said they had seen no signs of Iranian resistance.

The eyewitnesses, who are journalists visiting the city at the invitation of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, said that the INLA forces were crossing the border on their way to and from Mehran without any obstacles.

A military communique by the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization estimated the equipment and weapons won by the INLA during the offensive at $1 billion.

It is not known here whether the INLA forces will withdraw from the Iranian territory later after inflicting these heavy losses on the Iranian forces, or whether they will stay there.

Air Force Bombs Mehran

LD2006164788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] According to the Joint Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, pilots of the Iranian Air Force carried out bombing missions against enemy concentration points in Mehran area. They carried out their missions in fighter bombers at 0631, 1654, 1656, 1735 and 1738 today. Having inflicted considerable damage and losses on the enemy they returned to their bases safely.

1,400 Soldiers Captured

JN2006183288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] Yesterday I spent 4 hours in the city of Mehran in the company of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA], which entered the city at 1030 yesterday following a 10-hour fighting during which the INLA forces succeeded in taking control of the city and the adjacent area and in capturing 1,400 [soldiers], including officers. They also seized 40 tanks and armored vehicles; 130-mm, 155-mm, and 106-mm guns; TOW missiles; and thousands of rifles.

The two divisions defending Mehran did not hold out long and soon collapsed. Most of their men ran away, leaving behind their weapons and positions with all their papers and equipment. These two divisions were the 11th Division—Amir al-Mo'menin, Guards; and the 16th Division [name indistinct]. The attackers consisted of 22 brigades of male and female fighters who were directly supervised by Mas'ud Rajavi. They controlled roads and some heights over a 1,000-square km area, and destroyed two large bridges.

During my presence in Mehran some soldiers were arrested while trying to flee. I noticed that the number of the dead was small compared with the very large number of prisoners and the size of spoils. I also noted the absence of reaction by the Iranian forces in the region. Mehran was crowded with INLA fighters and their tanks and vehicles. They were in a state of great jubilation and were shouting "Death to the Iranian regime." Nevertheless, not a single artillery shell landed in Mehran.

All signs affirm the Iranian forces' collapse as a result of the surprise attack and the decline of morale. This was confirmed by a number of prisoners, including a colonel who said: At first I thought that the attackers were Iraqi. The special Iraqi I Army Corps stayed in its defensive positions and its forces did not advance into Iranian territory. Mehran yesterday witnessed the fall of an Iranian flag and the rise of another Iranian flag. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Plane Overflies Ilam

LD2006143388 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Ilam, June 20, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane broke the sound barrier over this western city today. The intruding plane violated Ilam air space at 12:30 hours (09:00 GMT).

Iraqi Plane Violations Noted

LD2006165288 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 20 Jun 88

[text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., June 20, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Baneh and Marivan towns, Kordstan Province, twice at 08:55 and 08:57 GMT Monday. The Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier before fleeing the region.

Communique No 3,239

LD2006180988 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Iranian naval units on their routine patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz Sunday reconnoitered 11 vessels including cargo ships, oil tankers and warships, according to a military communique released here Monday.

The 3239th Joint Staff communique said that on the battlefields, Iran's Muslim combatants continued their battles with Iraqi troops with artillery, mortar and other heavy weaponry Sunday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and inflicting substantial losses on them.

Iranian artillery fire also repelled an Iraqi patrol convoy in Sumar operational theater, western fronts, yesterday, killing and wounding several enemy patrolmen.

On Sunday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in zones of their influence, inflicting several casualties on the enemy and destroying some bunkers of theirs.

Iraqi armoured units operating in Sayyid Sadiq, Yebis and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and southern sectors, sustained heavy losses Saturday when hit by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

Iranian fighter-bombers heavily bombed enemy concentration sites in Mehran operational theatre, western fronts, at 06:31, 15:54, 15:56, 17:35, and 17:38 hours local time today (03:01, 12:24, 12:26, 14:05, and 14:08 GMT), inflicting losses on Iraqi troops.

All Iranian planes returned to their bases safely after carrying out their missions, concluded Joint Staff Communique No. 3239 of the Armed Forces Monday.

Pakistan

4 Killed, 15 Injured in Hyderabad Violence

BK2106024288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A press release issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad says there were sporadic incidents of violence during curfew relaxation in the city for 1 hour yesterday, resulting in the death of 4 persons and injuries to 15. Cases have been registered in the police stations concerned, and efforts are being taken to apprehend those responsible. The press release adds that at a meeting held in Hyderabad yesterday, which was attended by the representatives of all parties, groups and organizations, a pledge was taken to make full and sincere efforts to restore peace and tranquillity and to return the situation to normal.

Major Parties Agree on Party-Based Elections

BK1906143688 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Jun 88 p 10

[Text] Lahore, June 12—Except for the Muslim League (Junejo group) all other major political parties are in agreement that the next election should be held on a party basis under the PPP-PNA [Pakistan People's Party-Pakistan National Alliance] accord of 1977.

In separate statements on various occasions the leaders of these parties have been expressing apprehensions that without the formation of a supervisory council provided in the PPP-PNA accord holding of free and fair election was not possible.

The President of the Junejo League has also been demanding election within 90 days of the dissolution of the Assembly, but he, so far, has not talked of the 1977 accord between the PPP and PNA.

The parties which have clearly supported election under the PPP-PNA agreement include Pakistan People's Party, Jamiat-e Ulema-e Pakistan [JUP], Jamiat-e Islami, Tehrik-e Istiqlal and Awami National Party. A number of smaller parties have also supported this demand.

There is also an agreement among all major parties in demanding that elections should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the Assembly.

No party, so far, has demanded postponement of election. On the contrary, some parties have clearly stated that the process of accountability, which the President wanted to start against the ex-legislators, should not be undertaken as it might cause a delay in the electoral process as it did happen in 1977.

Similarly, all political parties have demanded that every party should be allowed to take part in election even if it had not got itself registered with the Election Commission. This demand has been shared even by the registered parties, including JUP, Jamiat-e Islami, Tehrik-e Istiqlal and National People's Party. Political circles believe that if the President postpones elections it will be his own decision. Similarly, if he tried to hold elections allowing only the registered political parties to contest he would be working against the spirit of the PPP-PNA accord, implementation of which has been demanded by almost all major parties.

Court Upholds Political Parties Act Appeal

BK2006165088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 20 (AFP)—The Pakistan Supreme Court on Monday upheld a petition by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto against a requirement that political parties register with the Election Commission, court sources said. The court's decision allowed political parties believing in Islamic ideology to contest elections, the sources added.

The judgment qualifies Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which had not registered with the Election Commission as required under 1986 amendments to the Political Parties Act of 1962, to contest elections, observers said.

Monday's judgment came three weeks after President Ziaul Haq dissolved Parliament and sacked the government on May 29. New elections must be held within 90 days of the dissolution under the Constitution.

The Supreme Court, in a 189-page judgment, declared void amendments made by President Mohammed Ziaul Haq two years ago to the Political Parties Act introducing a penalty of automatic dissolution of parties if they failed to register with the country's Election Commission.

Ms. Bhutto, who heads the main opposition party the [Pakistan] Peoples Party challenged the new rules in a petition in October 1987 saying they were unconstitutional and the PPP did not register under the new rules.

The amendments required parties to submit accounts, a list of office holders elected on the basis of regular party polls and assurances that it received no foreign money, with a penalty of dissolution if they did not comply.

The Supreme Court judgment, signed by a full bench of 11 judges of the country's highest court, upheld the requirement for parties to submit accounts but waived the penalty of dissolution for failure to comply.

It also upheld a clause in the act prohibiting the formation of parties with the object of propagating any opinion or action in a manner prejudicial to the Islamic ideology of Pakistan or its sovereignty, integrity or morality or the maintenance of public order.

The court had reserved its judgment after completion of arguments in February.

President Ziaul Haq dissolved Parliament three weeks ago and sacked the government saying they had not proceeded fast enough with the process of Islamisation he had initiated after toppling the government of Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Ms. Bhutto's father, in July 1977.

He also accused the government of Mohammed Khan Junejo of lawlessness and economic bankruptcy and promised new elections in line with the Constitution.

General Ziaul Haq has not named a date for the elections, but last week announced the introduction of shari'a, or Islamic law, declaring the country's laws subservient to the teachings of the Koran.

His move to enforce Islamic laws has been sharply criticised by the political parties who have challenged his authority to make such a change and charged that it was aimed at "exploiting Islam" to keep him in power.

Monday's Supreme Court judgment was seen as likely to allay fears that the president might call elections under the amended rules, effectively eliminating the PPP, the main opposition party, and other opposition groups, observers said.

The president cannot overrule the Supreme Court ruling, but it might clash with the shari'a laws, observers said.

The religious affairs minister in an interim government named by Gen. Ziaul Haq, Wasi Mazhar Nadvi, has said he felt that political parties were not allowed under Islam.

The shari'a ordinance promulgated by the president empowers superior courts to consider any petitition declaring that a law is repugnant to Islamic teachings.

Sunni, Shi'a Differences Over Shari'a Cited

BK1906095588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 19 (AFP)—The way shari'a, or Islamic law, is interpreted and applied in Pakistan will largely depend on who holds political power, analysts say here.

President Mohammed Ziaul Haq has come under fire for the way he announced the immediate introduction of shari'a without public consultation Wednesday, but there are also questions over what exactly it will mean.

Shari'a is based on the Muslim Koran and determines not only religious practice but regulates every aspect of daily life, including economics, justice and education, but its interpretation varies widely due to a lack of precise precepts.

Its application will be decided by muftis, interpreters of the law, and kazis, Islamic judges, but differences in interpretation and a lack of precision in the edicts introducing it mean that the stringency of its application will depend on political figures guiding the muftis, analysts say.

The opposition has condemned the introduction of shari'a as a political manoeuvre designed to allow President Ziaul Haq to bypass the political parties.

They also point out that General Ziaul Haq now holds the posts of head of the interim government, president, and chief of staff of the Armed Forces, after dissolving Parliament and sacking his government May 29, complaining among other things that they had failed to push for the Islamisation of the country.

Minister of religious affairs in the interim government, Maulana Nadvi, said last week that "Islam does not allow for political parties," and on Saturday urged people to vote when general elections did take place for those who put shari'a above all other laws, including the Constitution.

General Ziaul Haq had said when he dissolved Parliament that elections, due in 90 days under the Constitution, would be his first priority, but instead declared Islamic law in Pakistan after four days of discussion with religious leaders.

The Shi'ites, who account for about 18 to 20 million of Pakistan's predominantly Sunnite population of 100 million, have complained that no Shi'ites have been appointed to the Federal Shari'a Court.

The two groups differ in their interpretation of the Koran, from items such as the observation of Ramadan to economic matters.

Under Pakistan's shari'a, international economic commitments are to be left untouched, but the first reports of the Council of Islamic Ideology which is to implement it have argued for cutting back on foreign borrowing, increased cooperation with Islamic countries and the elimination of interest.

It has also urged a more rigorous Zakat system—a 2.5 percent tax on capital which is not used to help the poor and needy.

The Shi'ites reject the idea of the Zakat system altogether, and Maulana Sajid Ali Naqvi of the Shi'ite leading party the Tehrik-e Nifaz Fiqah Jafria said Sunday that under shari'a President Ziaul Haq had no right to rule on its application as he was not a mufti.

He also complained that the edicts were vague and incomplete, particularly in the economic sphere.

The press is worried by the president's decision to introduce shari'a as according to the ordinance, the authorities will take measures to promote Islamic values through the mass media.

Pakistan's current judicial system, based on English law, will be reviewed by the Federal Shari'a Court to ensure that all decisions are in keeping with Islamic prescriptions.

The Council of Islamic Ideology has recommended corporal punishment—such as stoning to death for adultery, maiming for serious robbery and the lash for drinking alcohol.

Women's organisations have also come out strongly against some aspects of the Islamic law, under which a man's testimony will be worth that of two women, according to the council.

They are also angered by divorce regulations put forward by the council whereby a husband would have the right to repudiate his wife and what they see as encouragement for polygamy.

Pakistan's turn towards Islam began in the last years of Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who banned discotheques and alcohol. Gen. Ziaul Haq, who seized power in 1977, has since tried to increase Islam's sway in his country.

DPRK Premier Makes Stopover at Karachi 20 Jun

BK2006084488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The prime minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Yi Kun-mo, made a 2-hour stopover at Karachi Airport today while on his way to Iran on an official visit. The Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabani, received Mr Yi. The governor later saw him off at the airport.

Naval Chief Leaves on Visit to Saudi Arabia

BK2006160588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, the chief of the naval staff, left Karachi on an 11-day official visit to Saudi Arabia today.

Commentary on Charges Against Afghan Policy

BK1806080788 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] The voice of the UN panel investigating the alleged violations of the Geneva accord appears to have been ignored in the din of anti-Pakistan propaganda unleashed by Kabul, Moscow, and New Delhi. Acting on the Kabul-Moscow complaints, the UN Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan inspected the border areas of Teri Mengal, Ali Mengal, Kharlarchi, and Chaperi but found no proof of any violations of the Geneva agreement. The UN investigation team has given a clear and categorical verdict of not guilty and that should have silenced all criticism, but apparently it has not, for the propaganda campaign seems designed to provide an alibi to Najibullah's failure to live up to his promises to the Soviets.

In return for the confirmation in power, the Kabul party chief had assured Moscow he would be able to effectively cover the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan and sustain himself as head of a pro-Russian regime indefinitely. But the Najib regime has begun to reel even sooner than estimated. Most of the military outposts entrusted to Afghan troops to guard the road of departing Soviet forces have fallen to the mujahidin. The major Afghan cities of Jalalabad and Qandahar are closely threatened and Kabul itself is under tremendous pressure.

Gorbachev complained at his post-summit press conference in Moscow earlier this month that Soviet troops continued to be taken prisoner in Afghanistan and rebel fire was hitting the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. Even though the mujahidin, by and large, are not hindering the Soviet troops withdrawal, at the same time they are not giving them a heroes send off and this is falsifying the Kremlin propaganda that Soviets had gone in as saviours. The Kabul regime's conspicuous failure to save the withdrawing Soviet troops from, what Moscow views as political humiliation, is being blamed on Pakistan's help to the mujahidin. It is the embarrassment at the faltering of Najibullah's military power and the Soviet's political influence that has triggered a rash of complaints against Islamabad. The most embarrassed Najibullah has made the shrillest noise. The embarrassed Kremlin leaders, while refusing to cancel or slow down the Soviet military withdrawal and expose the depleted Soviet force to further danger, have joined the psychic war against

Pakistan, and India's Rajiv Gandhi still desperate to play an Afghan role has sought to assure both Kabul and Moscow of his loyalty to the common cause.

Newspaper columnist Jim Hoagland in an analyses of India-Soviet-Kabul collaboration in THE WASHINGTON POST of June 8 says: To be taken more seriously are the implicit but clear Soviet threats to make trouble for Pakistan probably by increasing the flow and sophistication of weapons to India and to impede settlements in other regional conflicts such as Kampuchea, Angola, and Persian Gulf if the Afghanistan withdrawal goes badly. What the world needs to know is if the Soviet-Afghanistan withdrawal goes badly it would be because of the inherent untenability of any puppet regime and not because of any Pakistani support to the mujahidin.

In fact, after reviewing the panel's clear verdict of not guilty, Moscow should call off its propaganda campaign against Pakistan.